Yemeni, Omani leaders hold talks

SALALAH (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Sultan Oaboos Ben Said held talks here Saturday about Yemen's border dispute with Saudi Arabia, the official Omani News Agency (ONA) said. Yemen accused Saudi Arabia last month of massing troops along the border as the two neighbours held talks in Riyadh to try to resolve the dispute over three border provinces under Saudi control since a 1934 agreement. Yemen says the agreement expired in 1992. The two leaders met in Salalah, 1,000 kilometres south of the capital Muscat. to discuss the the agreement expired in 1992. The two leaders met in Salzian. 1,000 kilometres south of the capital kluscat, to discuss the "current negotiations on the dispute in order to reach a solution guaranteeing peace and stability in the region," ONA said. Mr. Saleh was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdul Karian Al Iryani. "Narrowing of points of view in the context of the Saudi-Yemeni dialogue occurred to achieve the aspired aim of security and stability in the region," the ONA report said. It did not elaborate on the outcome of the talks or say if Sultan Qaboos had dinched a breakthorner in the 60-year-old dispute. had clinched a breakthrough in the 60-year-old dispute.

Volume 19 Number 5842

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1995, RAMADAN 12, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Sharif Zeid receives Za'noun

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sbarif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday received Palestine National Council (PNC) Acting Speaker Salim Al Za'noun who is currently visiting Jordan. Sharif Zeid and Mr. Za'noun discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Mr. Za'noun said in statements to the press that he congratulated the prime minister on Jordan's regaining of its lands which were occupied by Israel.

Cabinet meets

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cooncil of Ministers met Saturday evening and approved Jordan's bosting of a conference for Arab culture ministers in 1996. The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minis-ter Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, decided to set up a committee which will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister and In-formacon Minister Khaled Al Karaki to prepare a study on the Maan glass factory.

Egypt urges Interpol to arrest militant

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt has called on Interpol to arrest a Muslim militant leader wanted for planning an attack nn President Hosni Mubarak who is apparently now living in London, police said. Yasser Tufik Ali sneaked out of Egypt after an attack on Prime Minister Atef Sedki in 1993 and initially headed for Yemen, police said. He was sentenced to death in his absence in a 1993 trial into the Sedki attack. His name also figures among 51 militants accused of relaunching an armed group the Al Jihad under a new name Talach Al Fatah, which is accused of planning to attack Mr. day sent for trial before a military court under a presidential decree issued on Monday. Mr. Ali is "currently apparently living in Lonthe police spokesman added. Egyptian authorities have been trying for two years to win the extradition of several militant leaders living in Europe. Among them is Talaat Fuad Quassaem, sentenced to death in 1992, who is now living in Denmark, Ayman Al Zawahri. a leader of Al Jihad living in Switzerland and Mohammad Shawqui Al Islambali is living

Women stage protest in Bahrain

NICOSIA (AFP) - Dozens of women demonstrated in front of a Bahraini court on Saturday demanding the release of prisoners held during unrest which flared in December and January, witnesses said Saturday. Pnlice swiftly broke up the demonstration in front of the high court in Manama which for the past few days bas been bolding the trials of those charged with inciong the unrest. an opposition member said contacted by AFP in Nicosia. Several of the women were forced to get into public buses emptied of their original passengers to be driven away from the court, he added. The trial is taking place in the absence of any defendants, and the bearing is purely based on their files. The last unrest in Bahrain was reported on Jan. 27 during the funerals of two Shiite Muslims killed by security forces.

Maroni to quit Northern League

MILAN (AFP) — Former Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni announced Saturday that be would quit his party, the federalist Northern League, and submit his resignation as a member of parliament within the oext few days. Mr. Maroni, addressing a Northern League congress in Milan. said he had lost his battle in the federalist party he helped found. "I have lost my poliocal battle within the league. My role in the Nortbern League is completed," he

Washington meeting seeks to end Israel-PLO impasse

Syrian track remains in limbo; Egypt to raise NPT

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Israel, Egypt. Jordan and
the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) meet in Washington today (Sunday) to try to revive Middle East peace bopes amid a series of unresolved disputes that have brought progress to a stand-

U.S. officials hosting the one-day meeting concede that the peace process is in trouble after a string of vio-lence that has led Israel to close its borders to Palestinians and toughen its line in autonomy talks.

But they hope the parties will come up with new ideas and reaffirm their determinadon that the "enemies of peace" - meaning the guerrillas behind the attacks will not prevail.

"This is a difficult period it's a period of some stress we always knew there would be ups and downs, and the cbal-lenge is to work through it," one official said.

Although the meeting is at foreign ministers level, U.S. President Bill Clinton will attend the start of it in a demonstracion of his stake in the process that has seen dramatic advances during his presidency, officials said. Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel last year, is holding out hope for a successful meeting Sunday.

Jordan's

envoy to

Syria dies,

"We will try to accomplish as much as possible on secur-ity and other abstacles," Ambassador Fayez Tarawneb said in an interview Friday. "Jordan, with Egypt, is io a good position to mediate. We bave good relations both with Israel and the PLO."

The meeting, to be chaired by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is meant to give substance to declarations of intent to work for peace that emerged from a Cairo sum-mit Feb. 2 which brought together the leaders of the same four parties.

Although Wasbington bailed that summit as historic, euphoria quickly faded when a meeong on Thursday between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat failed to produce results.

The two could not break a deadlock on issues holding up implemention of the next steps in the Israel-PLO peace deal, including violence, Jewisb settlement construction and Israel's ban on Palestinians entering the Jewish

Israel and the PLO are trying to agree on a redeployment of Israeli troops from some West Bank towns to be followed by Palestinian elec-

Mr. Arafat has since appealed to world leaders to

Israel, and one of his aides said on Friday that the United States, as chief sponsor of the peace process, "must intervene right away to re-

But a senior U.S. official, briefing reporters on condition he was not be idenofied. said: "I don't think that we're going to be presenting specific proposals."
"What we obviously are

suscitate the talks."

going to be doing is focussing on what can be done not only to change the climate but... tn build tangible forms of cooperation," he said.

They're determined to make a statement that this process is not going to be reversed.

Sunday's meeting at Blair House almost opposite the White House will bring together foreign ministers Shimon Peres of Israel. Amr Musa of Egypt and Abdul Karim Al Kabariti of Jordan. Top negotiator Nabil Sbaath will represent the PLO.

The U.S. official said among subjects discussed would be Israel's prime concern of "security" and ways of making sure aid gets through to the Palestinians. Economie cooperation —

seen by Washington as an important underpinning for the peace process - would also come up, he said.

expect that we would come to any conclusions from this meeting. This is an initial

He said the meeting was expected to be the first of a series and ministers would discuss whether they themselves or lower level officials shoold attend subsequent meetings

Egypt urged Israel Saturday to be more flexible in its talks with the Palestinians warning that otherwise the whole peace process could be

Egypt calls on Israel to show more flexibility to reach an accord with the Palestinian Authority as soon as possible," Osama Al Baz, spokesman for President Hosni Mubarak, told journal-

"Egypt is worried about the deadlock in talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Baz said,

"If the negotiations are blocked on this track, that risks putting the wbole of the peace process that we are trying to build into reverse for each stone affects the whole of the building."

Israel has to "respond favourably to the Palestinian negotiators, given that the Palestinian Authority has

(Continued on page 7)

EU team meets Sharif Zeid, supports Jordan, peace efforts

Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan (Petra photo)

KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Al Qasem, the King's advisors, Chief

Hussein on Saturday hosted an iftar in Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, His

honour of tribal leaders and representa- Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Moham-

tives of public and private sectors in Irbid mad, the King's military secretary,

Governorate. The iftar was attended by Prince Firas Ben Ra'd and the governor

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben of Irbid. The King and the guests per-

Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid formed Al Maghreb prayers together

AMMAN (Petra) - A team from the Enropean Union (EU) said after talks on Saturday with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker that the EU was ready to reach agreement with Jordan on

cooperation in various fields.

The team, led by Dennis
Bauchard, head of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the French ministry for foreign affairs, reviewed developments in the region at their meeting with the prime minister and discussed Jordan's endeavours to give momentum to the peace pro-

cess on all tracks. The meeting gave special attention to EU-Jordan cooperation in economic matters and means to ensure the achievement of sustainable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Also reviewed were plans to bold a conference in Barcelona in November to be attended by EU and Arab countries

around the Mediterranean

Sharif Zeid stressed Jordan's keenness on seeking. just and comprehensive peace. He outlined Jordan's efforts towards this end. ... He voiced Jordan's appre-

ciation of EU's efforts to. back the peace process and provide economic aid to the Mr. Bauchard, a former

ambassador to Jordan, out-lined the EU mission to the region last week led by French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppe and said that the EU was keen on maintaining strong ties with Jordan. Europe appreciates Jordan's endeavours and its leading role in the region, he

Present at the meeting with the three member delegation was actiog foreign minister Khaled Karaki and ambassadors of several EU conntries

Speaking to reporters afterwards Mr. Bauebard

said the Juppe-led EU tour of the region aimed at persuading the concerned parties to ly the Palestinians and Israel to try to overcome all obstacles on the way to peace.
Mr. Bauchard said the EU was ready to conclude agree-ments with Jordan to bolster the momentum of peace and to back the Kingdom's endeavours in all fields.

He said that the planned Amman economic conference in October would present a good opportunity to further enhance EU-Jordan relations as the EU plans to play a key role in ensuring the conference's success.

Mr. Bauchard told reporters that he discussed with Sharif Zeid EU's invitation to Jordan to take part in the Barcelona conference, which will discuss political, economic, security and humanitarian issues of concern to the countries of the Mediterranean basin.

Israeli minister: Accord with PLO is not sacred

laid to rest AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad Adaileh died early Saturday at the King Hussein Medical Centre. He was laid to rest at minister said on Saturday. Thannieh, his home village

ncar Karak. Several cabinet members led by Minister of Information Khaled Karaki attended the funeral along with mem-bers of Arab and foreign diplnmade missions in Jordan.

Adailch had been under treatment at the King Hus-sein Medical Centre.

His Majesty King Hussein delegated the governmr of Karak to attend the funeral and offer his sympathy to the bereaved family. Notables of the Adaileb

clan vniced their appreciation of the King's gesture. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delegated the director of the Karak police department to take part in

the funeral. His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad delegated re-tired army officer Major-General Mohammad Shobaki to attend the funcral while

Syrian Foreign Minister (Continued on page 7)

TEL AVIV (Agencies) -Israel wants to keep its troops in West Bank towns during Palestinian elections contrary tn its peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), an Israeli

But a senior Palestinian official warned if Israel did not honour its agreements with the PLO, the parties would face "a complete col-lapse nf the whole peace pro-

Israeli Prime Minister Ynzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat nn Thursday failed to break a deadlock on issues holding up Palestinian elections in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Mr. Arafat has appealed to world leaders to help save the peace process. Officials from Israel. Egypt, Jordan and the PLO are due to meet in Washington on Sunday to discuss ways to break the current impasse. (see separate

story).
"We've proposed elections to them (the Palestinians) if they are prepared (to accept) that they be held while we are in the inwns," Israeli Health Minister Ephraim Sneh. a former West Bank army com-

violated the 1993 Oslo peace deal between Israel and the PLO which called for an Israeli military redeployment outside Arab population centres ahead of elections, Mr.

Sneh said: "Correct."

security. Talks between Israel and

activities in the areas.

mander, told Israel Radio. When challenged that this

"The Oslo agreement said to implement it (elections) on the 15 July 1994 but for us security is sacred and not the dates of Oslo, with all due respect. We will not take steps that are, from our point of view, a danger to

the PLO are stuck over Israel's demand for a Palestinian clampdown on militant groups and Palestinian demands that Israel lift its closure of the West Bank and Gaza and stop settlement

In Gaza. Saeb Erekat, who holds the local government portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said Israel's failure to implement the next stage of its self-rule agreement with the PLO would jeopardise the future of peace.

The peace process has reached a point where it has to be decided if Israel needs peace through implementation of the agreement - redeployment, elections and a

halt to settlements," Dr. Erekat said after the authority's weekly meeong in Gaza.
"If not, if Israel does not want peace, then we are facing a complete collapse of the

wbole peace process." he Dr. Erekat said he would meet with Israel's chief negooator Yoel Singer in Jericho on Monday to discuss talks on Palestinian elections due

The last talks ended Wednesday with little prog-

to resume in Cairo on Feb.

At the time, Dr. Erekat said the two sides had stumbled on drawing up a list of outstanding issues in order of priority. But Mr. Singer decribed the negodacons as having achieved "very good

Disagreement over the composition of a council to run self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza has long dogged talks on elections.

The PLO has demanded a large body with legislative powers, while the Israelis want a smaller council with an administrative role only. Following the weekly meeting of the PNA, minis-

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq: Turkey can reopen pipeline

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, on the highest-level visit from Baghdad since the Gulf war. said Saturday that Turkey had every right to reopen temporarily a joint oil pipe-line closed under a U.N.

The embargo was imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait more than four

years ago.

Mr. Sahaf told a news conference here that Iraq was doing its best to develop relations with Turkey and invited Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Karayalein to

Baghdad. Mr. Sahaf added that in Bagbdad's opinion, autonomy was the best solution to the conflict in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. However, he accused the United States of "provoking the

Kurds." saying Baghdad could not tolerate any foreign interference in its internal Earlier, Mr. Sahaf called

on Premier Tansu Ciller, af-ter which Mr. Karayalcin Iold reporters the talks covered a variety of topics including bilateral relations and the reopening of the joint oil pipeline. A proposal for the reopen-

ing of the pipeline would release part of the 11.8 million barrels of crude that remained idle since the war. Of the total, 27 million barrels would be flushed to Turkey within six months to be used in Turkey's domestic refining network. A portion of the proceeds would go to a U.N. war reparations fund.

Under the proposal. Tur-key would also deliver to Iraq humamtarian supplies in exchange for the oil. Mr. Karayalcin said agreement

was not reached on the subject but that Turkey would submit its proposal in writing at a later date for Iraq to

Despite four-year sanctions on Iraq, the U.N. has approved the operation provided trace spends the money it gets on humanitarian needs and the U.N. can monitor distribution of those supplies. Iraq so far has refused U.N.

supervision. Mr. Sabaf said Iraq and Turkey were looking for a formula which did not intervene in Iraq's internal affairs. Mr. Karayalelin said Iraq

was working on a blueprint to distribute the bumanitarian supplies and woold convey it to Turkey later. Turkey says it will only go ahead with the operation if the U.N. Turkey cut the flow of oil

in 1990 to conform to the

U.N. sanctions on Iraq.

The two neighbours also discussed political relations and the complex question of autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Despite a Turkish state-

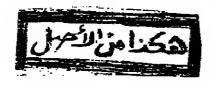
ment that it respected Iraq's territorial integrity, the Iraqi foreign minister said Baghdad was unhappy that Turkey hosted U.S.-led forces opposed to the Iraqi govern-He said Iraq had not asked

Turkey to deny access to the allied forces because that would be an interference in Turkey's internal policies. "But we express our

views," Mr. Sahaf said, "The U.S. will leave the region one day, but Turkey and Iraq will 'We believe Turkish-Iraqi relations ... are very impor-

(Continued on page 7)





Saudi Arabia said not **attending peace meeting**

WASHINGTON (R) - The United States considered having a Saudi observer at a //ashington meeting on Sun-day aimed at breathing new ife into the faltering Middle East peace process but the lea apparently was dropped. fficials said on Friday.

A seninr U.S. official had old Reuters the observer was expected and would be an mportant step to indicate broad support for the embat-...d peace process.

But late on Friday, as plans for the meeting were firming up, another senior official aid only Israel. Egypt, Jorcan and the Palestine Liberaion Organisation (PLO) ould be represented.

This second official, wbo riefed reporters on condion of anonymity, said wider epresentation was consifered but the decision was nade to naly include those countries who had been at a meeting in Cairo last week.

'We considered whether it vould be useful (to have ther Arab representation). '/e thought about that. But our basic judgement is at this point it is best and probably most appropriate to keep it "mited to those who participated in Cairo," he said.

He added that "some-"here down the road" the process may be expanded. Earlier, another senior official told Reuters: "I tbink there'll be a Saudi observer inere, which is something that has not been done be-

"It's an important step... to indicate that peace is supunted broadly in the region espite the attacks un it," he

Officials at the Saudi embassy in Washington were not immediately available for

Although Riyadh is not lirectly involved in the peace process. Washington believes ts backing is vital because of its wealth and religious im-cortance in the Arab World.

Sunday's meeting follows a failed summit on Thursday between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that an official acknowledged has struck "some real and psychological blows to the

peace process." But he said one of the U.S. roles was to try to keep the peace process on track when it came under attack by "the enemies of peace" phrase Washington uses to describe guerrillas who bave launched recent attack on

The official said the purpose of the meeting was basically to show the good guys moving forward. That's very important pyschological-He said it could issue statements reaffirming support for the peace process and condemning violence and might take "some specific steps," which he declined to

He said the meeting was likely to discuss Israel's ban on Palestinians entering the Jewish state, in effect since suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22.

The ban, which has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel, is one of the main PLO complaints against Israel but they are also deadlocked over an Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank ahead of Palestinian elections there.

In Gaza, the Palestinian Authority said PLO official Nabil Shaath would attend the Washington meeting.

"The Palestinian Authority held an urgent cabinet meeting this evening and decided to send a delegation to Washington to attend the meeting which will start on Sunday," said Nabil Abu Irdeineh. an aide to Mr. Ara-

. The meeting comes on the beels of a failed summit on Thursday between Mr. Ara-

U.N. unlikely to repeat Somalia, Annan asserts

United Nations is unlikely to take on another law enforcement operation such as that ust ending in Somalia, Under-Secretary General for J.N. Peacekeeping Operaconference in Nairobi Friday after returning from Mogadishu.

Instead, he said, the Unted Nations was likely to "farm nut" such operations to regional groups or individual countries.

Mr. Annan pointed out that the U.S. and U.N. troops who arrived in Somaiia in late 1992 - 30,000 strong at their peak - had halted famine deaths by preventing looting of relief convoys by clan militias, and that farmers were now producing surpluses.

But he admitted that "much of what we have achieved remains vulnerable to the threat of renewed conflici.

"The future of the country is still in the balance," he added.

Mr. Annan visited Mogadishu to review plans for the withdrawal of the last 8,000 U.N. troops under the protection of a U.S.-led armada. Most civilians will be

evacuated by Tuesday, and Mr. Annan said he expected the last soldier to leave by March 6 or 7.

The withdrawal, which follows the failure of rival warlords to agree on a government of national unity for Somalia, which has been

HAIROBI (AFP) - The without a government since the ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991, was a lesson to the leaders of regions in crisis that "the international community does not have unlimited resources, and that there is a limit to its patience," be said.

Mr. Annan said it "cannot be excluded" that inter-clan fighting will break out after the U.N. troops leave, but that he hoped it could be limited to Mogadishu, where rival militias might fight for the port and the airport.

The United Nations intended to maintain a political presence in Somalia, he said. and would conduct a detailed review of the situation a month after the pullout to see if it was safe for U.N. representatives to return to Mogadishu or some other city, such as the southern port of Kis-

mayo. The main lesson of the U.N. Operation in Somalia was that the United Nations must remain neutral in such situations, he said, adding that it was up to Somalia's warlords to agree on a future

political structure. "We did not have a mandate for trusteeship; we did not go there to colonise."

The withdrawal from Somalia under the protection of the U.S.-led "Operatioo United Shield" would be a case-study for other evacuations, such as the eventual pullout of U.N. troops from the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Annan said.

5 aid workers freed in Sudan U.S. seeks

in southern Sudan were freed on Saturday "smelly but

Aid officials said the men - two Ethiopians, a Swiss and two Kenyans — were handed to U.N. officials at Doleib Hill, 30 kilometres south of the government-held town of Malakal.

They're smelly but smiling," Trevor Harvey, manager of a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) camp at Lokichokio in northwest Kenya, told headquarters by radio as be flew back with the

They are fine and in good spirits," said Operation Life-line Sudan (OLS) spokes-woman Sally Burnheim, adding nothing was given to the kidnappers led by a former rebel commander as a

Mr. Harvey was aboard a U.N. plane that set out from Lokichokio to hunt for the five aid workers who were among 11 kidnapped on Wednesday in Waat town in Upper Nile province and driven north with some 130 gunmen.

The kidnappers were led by Gordon Koang Banypiny, accused by his former rebel group - the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) - of being a Khar-

NAIROBI (R) — Five fore-ign aid workers taken bostage tourn government agent.

Six hostages were freed on Thursday might and Friday in return for food. The five released on Saturday work for UNICEF, Britain's Save the Children Fund and Swiss Dis-

aster Releif. It was believed to be the first kidnapping of foreign aid workers in sonthern Sudan. devastated by 12 years of civil war. U.N. officials had feared it might set a dangernus precedent.

Mr. Burnheim said OLS was advised by SSIM on Saturday to pull all its staff out of three locations in Upper Nile as government forces, apparently mounting a long-awaited dry season offensive, thrust out of Malakal on Friday and took the village of Baliet.

She said the temporary evacuation of staff was going

SSIM. which is led by Rick Machar, said in a statement its rebels made "a tactical withdrawal" from Baliet on the River Sobat after fierce fighting.

In a separate statement, it said government troops attacked one of its bases at Paitaeth oo Saturday. "SSIM forces are putting up stiff resistance against the enemy advance," it said.

Khartoum's forces seem to be making their first major dry season offensive in three years against Christian and animist rebels fighting for self-determination for the south since 1983.

In another development, aid officials said some 50,000 southern Sudanese displaced from twin camps at Labone fied into Ugaoda, five kilometres to the south, on

David Evans, a representative of Norwegian People's Aid, told Reuters a total of 3I aid workers evacuated Labone on Friday after unidentified firing near Labone

"The camp authorities first moved the people from camp two to camp one and later all of them crossed into northern Uganda. Our representative there however says they are waiting to see what happens and may return if there is security," he added.
"We had a fully functioning hospital io Labone with

100 beds and the patients literally picked their bandages up and walked out yesterday with the others. The hospital is empty," he

Rebels of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation army and government troops have fought just northwest of Labone over Parajok village since Khartnum's forces seized it in December.

Greece seeks EU unity on Turkey deal

ATHENS (R) - Greece has called for European Uoion (EU) solidarity over its decision to reject an agreement in principle on forging an EU customs union with arch-rival

Turkey. 'We want to believe that all EU countries, especially the big ones that can influ-ence EU policy, will move in a spirit of EU solidarity," government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told re-

porters. EU foreign ministers, including Greek European Affairs Minister George Mangakis, agreed in principle on Monday to go ahead with a customs union with Turkey in return for Brussels setting a date to start talks with Cyprus on joining the EU. But a Greek cabinet meet-

ing on Wednesday, chaired by Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, decided to reject the deal saying several points needed to be improved before Athens could give its approval. There was no clear reason

wby Greece decided to pour cold water on what had appeared to be a done deal. But many Athens radio stations and newspapers blasted the government early in the week, accusing it of selling out to Turkey. Relations with Turkey are

a highly emotive issue and

leaders are appealing to the public to play an active role

in fighting Islamic extremists

In a front-page editorial

Friday in the government-run

Al Akhbar newspaper, editor

Galal Dewidar said that it is

oot up to police alone to fight

the people — and all popolar

and official apparatus - who

believe that killing and vio-

lence is oot Islam or "jihad"

(holy war) but is the tar-

nishing of true religion and

He also praised the grand

sheikh of Al Azhar, Gad Al

Haq Ali Gad Al Haq. for

unfair to the country."

"It is the responsibility of

in the coontry.

the radicals.

wrote.

election mood. The ruling Socialists need 10 more votes in parliament to elect a

Greek president in April. Intense wheeling anddealing is taking place daily among the rival parties and failure to elect a new Greek president would force immediate national elections. Mr. Venizelos explained

the rejection by saying Greece wants more specific deatils on EU membership for Cyprus, less money offered to Ankara to cope with the customs union and more aid to Greece's textile

The EU is a continuous negotiating field. Nothing is final and everything can be discussed if you know what you want and if you have certain positions where you stand firm," he said. He said Mr. Papandreou

sent letters to his EU counterparts on Friday explaining Greece's objections. Athens' shift of position prompted angry reactions from some of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel expressed "re-

Greece's EU partners. gret and incomprehension" over Greek insistence to keep blocking the EU customs union with Turkey, saving EU members had already made big concessions to Athens.

lic to treat Islamic extremists

of Egypt's ranking clerics as head of Al Azhar, a major

centre of scholarship for the

from our side is the beginning

of a oew stage in which the banner of Islam will prevail

against the conspirators and

resentful who tarnish its

wonderful principles and

values." Mr. Dewidar wrote.

Mubarak late last month

appealed in a national

address marking police day

for the public to support the

efforts of security forces to

combat the extremists.

Egyptian President Hosni

"I can say that this move

Sbeikh Gad Al Hag is one

'Any change of individual elements will endanger the Greece is in a volatile pre- package as a whole," Mr. Egyptian mufti praised

for anti-customs stand

CAIRO (AP) - Egyptian calling last week for the pub-

as heretics.

Islamic World.

Kinkel said in a statement on Thursday.

"The partners in the EU have already gone a long way to meet Greek interests. Germany played a decisive role in reaching a compromise by setting aside its own posi-tions," he said.

France, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, said it remained hopeful the customs union could be agreed by March 6.

The necessary initiatives will be taken to achieve this gnal," Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque told a news briefing. He said an EU committee

of permanent representatives was to meet on Friday in Brussels to discuss Athens' objections.

However, EU sources later said the meeting never took place.

The sources said it was cancelled after committee members concluded there was nothing of substance to discuss.

Both Ankara and Nicosia had welcomed news of the agreement, which was expected to give a boost to Turkey's ailing economy and help to speed up a solution to the Cyprus problem.
Closer EU-Turkey links

bave-been blocked for years by a row between Athens and Ankara over the island of

5 killed in Egypt clashes

MINYA (AFP) - A 17-yearold girl and four militants died Saturday in two separate shootouts in the troubled southern Egyptian province of Minya, police said. The girl, Abir Mobammad

Sultan, was caught in crossfire between police and armed fundamentalists in the village of Al Odwa, 250 kilometres sootb of Cairo, officers said.

The militants escaped after the gunbattle. Meanwhile, police shot

dead four wanted militants who opened fire on officers as they tried to arrest them at their bideout in Abal Balad near Maghagba, also in

change in Iran's behaviour

Washington (USIA) — The United States wants Iran to change its behaviour to conform with international standards, the acting spokes-woman emphasised when asked about House Speaker Newt Gingrich's Feb. 8 call for the eventual forced replacement of Iran's regime.

"This administration has consistently condemned and vigorously opposed specific aspects of Iranian policy, including Iran's support for violent groups seeking to destroy the peace process. Tehran's continuing support for terrorism, Iran's ongoing pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, its efforts to subvert other governments, and its dismal human rights record at bome," spokes-woman Christine Shelly said.

"The objective of our policy is to bring focused and coordinated international pressure, both economic and pobtical, on Iran to change its behaviour to conform to international standards. The administration has focused on areas we believe will bave a maximum impact in influencing Iran's behaviour such as arms transfers, dualuse technology, and credit," sbc said.

Asked if the United States was seeking the overthrow of the current Iranian regime, Ms. Shelly replied: "Not as such, no. Iran's government is for the Iranian people to decide. As I stated before, our interest is io getting Iran to change it behaviour."

Speaking to a conference of military and intelligence officers Wednesday, Mr. Gingrich said the only long-range solution that makes any sense" is for the United States to pursue an overall strategy that "ultimately is designed to force the replacement of the current regime in Iran.'

Israeli soldier's death 'verifying the kill'

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli Druze army officer may have been shot to death by his own troops after they mistook him for a wounded guerrilla, a weekly newspap-

er reported Friday. The article in Kol Ha'ir, in which northern commander Major General Amiram Levine did not confirm or deny the allegations, raised new doubts about an alleged policy known here as "verifying the kill" — shooting woonded guerrillas pointblank to ensure death.

The army has said that guerrilla fire killed Major Kiwan Hamed on Dec. 19, 1994, in an Israeli-controlled zone of southern Lebanon. But after Kol Ha'ir and a

second newspaper, Kolbo Haifa, began questioning the army version, chief of staff Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak on Friday appointed retired Gen. Mosbe Levy, a former army chief of staff, to investigate the incident.
Media reports Thursday

said the army bad withheld information oo Hamed's. death from his family, who are from the Druze minority whose members serve in Israel's army. The report suggested Hamed may bave been hit by "friendly fire."

The two newspapers Friday quoted testimony from an anonymous solider who said be was a member of Hamed's unit who fought in the battle in which he was killed.

"We were to charge toward the building, and we didn't see that our commander, Maj. Hamed, was not in the area. We charged, shooting in all directions," the soldier was quoted as saying.

"Outside the building we saw a man. We opened fire. The man fell. We went close: a few soldiers, and saw that he was lying on his side. One carried out the verification killing procedure as we were taught in many exercises to shoot a wounded guerrilla in the head to make sure he is.

The battle continued in heavy fog and rain. Only

afterwards did the soldiers realise they had shot their commander, who had forged ahead of bis soldiers during the charge, Kol Ha'ir said. It was not immediately clear why the soldiers did not recognise their commander or his uniform.

Gen. Levine, asked by Kol Ha'ir about the soldier's allegations, was quoted only as saying, "Okay, so what? ... I can pull similar incideots from my sieeve. I suggest you

ignore it." Hamed's brother Kamal told Israel Television that "as far as the family concerned the case is closed... we have confidence the General (Levine) told us the truth."

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied the army had any verification of kill" policy.
"There is no deliberate shooting of a wounded per-son," the source said.

But another former northern . eommander; retired General Yossi Peled, told Israel Radio there exists "the concept that after a charge you verify that all are dead' to insure against a sudden

attack from behind. . The Israeli human rights group Betselem has complained to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin about such actions against Palestinians in Israel's occupied territories. But Betselem Director Yizhar Beer said the practice would be viewed differently if used in Lebanon.

"There is a very fundamental difference between what happens in Lebanon in a war and what goes on during the policing of a civilian people in the territories," be

There bave been several past incideots where such killings are suspected. In 1992, an undercover soldier was killed by friendly fire in circumstances similar to the reports of Hamed's death.

Afghan power transfer ready from Feb. 20

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) -President Borhanuddin Rabbani of Afghanistan will hand over power to a new leader in Kabul shortly after Feb. 20, a United Nations official

"The mechanism for the transfer of power between Mr. Rabbani and the new leadership will be in place from Feb. 20 in the Afghan capital," said the official.

Charles Santos. He said the transfer would take place-the next day or

The changeover would bring into force a ceasefire in the two and half year civil war in Afghanistan.

Mr. Rabbani's term of office ended last Dec. 28. He had agreed to stand down in favour of a more representative government that included neutral figures as well as figures from the nine main factions that fought the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan between 1979 and

Mr. Rabbani indicated in an interview published Saturday that he hoped to keep the mysterious Talibans on his side, but needed to know

more about their origin. The Talibans, who swept on to the Afghan political scene only a few months ago, took the town of Maidan Shahr Friday, just 50 kilometres from Kabul, and have said they intend to capture the capital.

Maidan Shahr was a major stronghold of Mr. Rabbani's

bitter enemies, the Hezb-e-Islami of the Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, but the Talibans have never indicated any support for the president either. Mr. Rabbani told the French histan was a deeply religious country.

"So any movement or action of a religious nature is supported by the people," he

"We have asked our commanders in the areas we control to help them to free the roads, disarm the combattants, end corruption. But we have also warned the Talibans to sbun foreign interference and internal opportunism which act secretly and

discredit their enterprise. Mr. Rabbani said he wanted to know who was flying the Talibans' warplanes and driving their tanks, and who were their strategists, adding, "if ever we discover that a foreign hand is behind them we will ask the people to throw them

out. The Talibans, who already. cootrol eight provinces in southern Afghanistan, are said by many diplomats and experts to have received support in their early stages from Pakistan.

They have vowed to eliminate "criminal" factions and banditry which have plunged Afghanistan into anarchy since 1992.

They have also launched an Islamisatioo programme in areas under their control.



Burhanuddin Rabbani

making women take a low profile in society, fighting the onig trade and applying Islamic justice codes. According to diplomatic sources, the Talibans com-

prise 25,000 men and have ao arsenal of 100 tanks and 10 warplanes.
The movement has received support from local people weary of the power struggle between Mr. Rabba-

ni and Mr. Hekmatyar wbich

has caused at least 20,000 deaths. Mr. Rabbani blamed foreign interference for the contiouation of the war, but he refused to say which countries were involved. He said be still hoped for a peaceful solution, and iotended to hand over power, but the lack of a reliable mechanism prevented him from doing so.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 173111-19 PROGRAMME TWO 17:90 Cocottes Minutes 17:30 Oue Le Mielluer Gagne Pegase News tn French Ushuaia Best Stories Charlie Chaplin Evehus "Aftermath"

Feature film: "Threshold" Till We Meet Again PRAYER TIMES

News in English

17:22 Maghrel CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757

Tecrasancia Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543. on Catholic Church Tel. an Orthodox Church Tcl. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: K24328. 824.528. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazawene Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. X11295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny and earm with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaha, moderate weather condi-tions will prevail with winds northare and seas calm. Min /Max. Icmb. Aqaba 9/22

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman In. Aqaba 21 Humidity

TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN; Dr. Mukhles Halasa . . Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzab .

Al Asema pharmacy 637035 Nairoukh pharmacy 62367 Yacouh pharmacy ... Shmeisani pharmacy MINIS Nairouth phermacy 847632 IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Qunu (—) Alques pharmacy (—) ZARQA: Dr. Walid Halasch 982799

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843472
Traffic Police
Public Security Department 630371
Hotel Complaints
Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints #97467
Arman Municipality
Complants
Telephone Information [directory assistance]
[greener assistance]
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 641101
Jordan Television 773t11
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
815615
Electric Power
COLUM I CAPI

RI Flight Information 08-53200

con Alia Ind. Airport 18-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khulidi Materuity, J. Amm 644281/6 Akich Maternity, J. Amn. Jabul Amman Maternity 647362 Shrecisani Hospital (69131 University Hospital 845x45 Al-Measher Hospital 66727/9 The Islamic, Abdali 668164/6 Al-Mahairana 777114/7 Itakan. Al-Muhajrees Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich Army, Marka \$9161015 Queen Alia Hospital 60224050 Amal Hospital 574155 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital

(09)986732 The Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (199)990340

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

. AUZ1275555

IRBID: Princes Basina Hospital Greek Carbolic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

ARRIVALS (Terminal 1) . Bungkok (RI) Jeddah (RI) 45-35 Damascus (RI)

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5. where it should always be veri-Royal Jordanian (RJ)

AIRPORT

69:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (R.I) Doha, Bahraia. Aqaba (RJ) New York, Amsterdam (RJ) . Madrid, Geneva (RJ) . Rome (RJ ... Frankfurt Victor (RJ) Vienna (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Manama (GF Moscow (SU) ... Cairo (MS) ... Beirut (ME) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanias (RJ)

06:25 Beirut (RI)
10:45 Aqaba, Vienna (add) (RI)
11:90 Rome (RI)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RI)
11:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RI) 11-34 ____ Tustis Ca 20:45 . 20:45 . 21:00 . . New Deshi (R.F. 21:25 Abu Dhahi, Dubai (RJ) 22:99 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ) 22:39

(Terminal 1)

.... Rome (AZ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Annua _ 8:00 s.m. every Monday Arr. Democras 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Demissens 7:30 s.m. every Sunday Arr. Amunia _ 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES

700/ 400

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Grape Fruit Marrow (large)

Marrow (strazii)

Onion (green)

Onion (dry) 180 / 100 300 / 200 380/ 240 320/ 200 480 / 320 ... 180 / 120



o the Lem holds talks with

dead ...
The battle combined afterwards and the commander, who he commander who he wildle. interior minister AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International (AI) Saturday met Interior Minister Salameh shead of his widge the charge Kol He ರ್ಷ.ನಲ್ಲೇ ಕ Hammad and discussed the It was not the clear why the solding mir 4m temporary closure of the

tie'll ahout the

of as the family or

the case is closed.

A military source

ing Israeli borg

- un Betselen b.

Collect to Prime y.

resched Rahin 20.

national against Pales.

install a necupied ter-

hathar Beer laid they

and he viewed die.

- of in Lebunon

But Beiselem b.

There is a se-

-- Tierman differences

- Deens in L-

.... ... ind what goe

e policing of a

nave been

"I are suspen.

n undercone

tid is (nend-

י שמול היותר ביי די י

that the of Hamedia

.........

Hurnanuddia Rebit

and the second second

and appear

n. Tuhes ou men ak

יויבו נוו :

 $\cdots \sim 10^{100}$

- 1 - 1 - 1 mai

The Colonia San

in or the 6.5.

involval.

TRAIN

Access and a second

good 2; kee.

and the latest

יולה נוריטו

irm or

120363

1...025.3

37.5

 $M_{\Delta \to e \pi}$

145.00

÷---

recognise their manner. The AI last month decided Gen. Levine. 451: to freeze the Amman office's activities due to internal disallegations, Mas disc putes that led to the colleccan pull similar y tive resignation of its mem-

organisation's office in

istolic il pesse | me AI said at the time that it had found our that several Hamed's brothe: members of the AI office iona Israel Televising were trying to dominate and politicise AI work, which totally contravenes the orgamisation's policy.

Discussion with the minis-

confidence the Glessine) lold we be ter of interior covered ways to help the AI Jordan's office in a condition of a to resume activities, accord-Interest of the lord of the lo There is no in two-member AI team on Jor-maining of a work.

The the Market is that Mr. Hammad prices in two-member AI team on Jor-dan's measures vis-a-vis the dan's measures vis-a-vis the But another forms

All office here, noting that the Ministry of Interior has the Ministry of the members requested that its members requested that its members Yossi Pull their activities and re-Padio there ct frain from giving statement frain from giving statement to the press or try to pose as enty that all in AI representatives at regionin-use againg . al or international confer-

Mr. Hammad pledged full Jordanian cooperation with and assistance to AI and its readiness to arrange for AI Amman office to resume operations within the required

Until its elosure, the Al Jordan branch had 300 members divided into 20 different groups and political affilia-

Princess Basma urges drawing up a pan-Arab strategy on women

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has called for the creation of a pan-Arab information network on women in the Arab World which would help the creation of a pan-Arab strategy on women.

Speaking in an interview with the Abu Dhabi Television via satellite, the Princess said that the United Nations and its specialised agencies have over the past few years started directing attention towards dealing with regional development issues as means

of settling regional disputes. She said that the Arab women are called on to embark on a national pan-Arab strategy designed to

help them deal with the development issues and chal-

lenges of the coming century.
"The role of women in sustainable development is pivotal, but it is regrettable that the role of Arab women is still marginalised," said the Princess, adding that no real development can be achieved if it does not fulfil the aspirarions of all sectors of the public and involve women's participation.

The Princess, who spearheads efforts to improve the statute of women in the Kingdom, through the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), reviewed the different gains and accomplishments of Jordanian women their participation in public

Referring to the national strategy on Jordanian women, the Princess said that it has been drawn up 10 help women carry out their role in social, political and economic arenas.

"We are now in the process of applying the national strategy and we have ser up several women committees in various governorates to help implement the various strategy provisions," the Princess said.

Referring to the outcome of the Arab women conference held in Amman last November to prepare for the

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A new estab-

lishment dedicated to help-

ing small entrepreneurs

raise capital through an in-

novative loan guarantee

scheme says it is pursuing an

aggressive marketing policy

by directly going to poten-

The Jordan Loan

Guarantee Corporation

(JLGC), registered as a

nublic shareholding com-

pany in July, has so far

helped 60 entrepreneurs set

up business by guaranteeing loans worth about JD 1.25

million, JLGC Director-

General Jamal Salah said

"The scheme itself is re-

latively new to Jordan, and

as such we need some more

time for people to know

what we offer and what the

procedures are," said Dr.

Salah in an interview with

"We are now in the pro-

cess of organising work-

shops and seminars for va-

rious business groups in

Jordan so that people are

made aware of our activities

and could take advantage of

the Jordan Times.

tial businessmen.

Saturday.

over the past decade and Beijing conference, the Princess said that the meeting, which was attended ov 900 women who took part in 29 workshops, succeeded in accomplishing a pan-Arab plan to be submitted to the Beijing conference

She summed up a general set of priorities aimed at improving the status of Arab women. They include calls for granting women their full rights, on equal terms with men, in public life and decision-making processes, opening of the labour market for women, providing full health services for them and allowing them to participate in the socio-economic develop-



QUEEN HOSTS IFTAR - Her Majesty ment officials and the Administrative Queen Noor Saturday hosted an iftar Committee of the Business and Profesbanquet at Raghadan Palace for the wives sional Women Club. The banquet was of Arab and Muslim diplomatic corps, the also attended by Her Royal Highness wives of local representatives of interna- Princess Ghida Talal tional organisations, the wives of govern-

Recent rain, snowfall helped fill up dams, saved crops, saplings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) said Saturday that the King-dom's dams now hold a total of 85,774,168 cubic metres of rain water collected mostly after the rains of the current

winter season.

A JVA statement said that the King Talal Dam alone is now bolding nearly 66 million cubic metres, adding that two of the dams, Wadi Shueib and Kafrain, are full to

capacity. Meanwhile, Dr. Mohammad Al Sheikh, director of agricultural production at the Ministry of Agriculture, said in a statement Saturday that the rains and snowfall of the past week had beneficial effects on fruit trees and vegetables while the cold weather accompanying the rain and snow helped somehow eliminate a great deal of pests, like the white fly, in the Jordan Valley region.

Mr. Sheikh said that the rains were timely and saved the cereal crops, coming after a break of more than 40 days of dry weather. Mr, Sheikh said that the

recent rains had saved the tree saplings planted at the beginning of winter

Slovak team due to sign cooperation protocol

AMMAN (Petra) - A delegation from the Federation Chambers of Trade and Industry in Slovakia is due in Amman later this month for talks with the Jordanian business community on trade and industrial cooperation.

Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haydar Murad said that the visiting team will sign with, the Jordanian federation a protocol designed to boost trade between Jordan and

The protocol will pave the way to the exchange of visits

ness partnerships, he said. According to Mr. Murad, the planned protocol, which will be signed during the Slovak delegation's visit starting on Feb. 22, will also cover such issues like the exchange of publications and pamphlets containing information related to trade, marketing of national products and ser-

He said that the two sides will discuss ways of overcoming obstacles impeding the exchange of goods and economie cooperation.

vices to businessmen.

The Slovak team, which is by business people from the to be headed by the chairman two sides, arrange for joint of the Federation of Chamtrade affairs and conferences bers of Trade and Industry. in addition to concluding will discuss prospects for trade deals and creating busi-

ventures and construction of power stations, added Mr.

Murad. He said that the visiting business team will group representatives of major Slovak firms which produce computers, road construction equipment, cranes, agricultural implements, pumps, timber, medical equipment, ceramics and engineering machinery. among others.

our offer to help them raise capital;" he said. The corporation has a He said the Slovak team is capital of JD 7 million, with interested in concluding longthe Central Bank of Jordan term agreements with the (CBJ) contributing JD 3 public sector especially with the Health Ministry, to help million and the rest from commercial banks, insurcarry out therapeutical proance companies, the Social jects. He said the team will Security Corporation, the move the USAID grant discuss the purchase of Jordanian fertilisers, phosphate

Loan guarantee firm on aggressive marketing policy

Jamai Salah

Cities and Villages Development Bank and the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

The CBJ share of the capital came from a \$5.5 million (JD 4.2 million) grant extended by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the IDB in 1989. The reminder of the U.S. aid is being kept as reserves to eover loans extended by the IDB in the same category. Dr. Salah

Dr. Salah headed the research department of the Central Bank of Jordan prior to his secondment as director general of the corporation when it was set up. The CBI took the initiative to set up the corpora-

uon after the government decided in August 1993 to from the IDB to the Central Bank.

"Had it not been for the assistance from USAID. the corporation would not hve come into existence." he said. "The idea to set up the body was always there. but the USAID made it possible to realise it."

The basic philosophy behind the corporation, said Dr. Seiah "is to gradually convince the commercial banks to move away from their traditional approach to lending against collaterals and focus more on project feasibility as the determining factor.

"The viability and cashflow assessment of the project should be the two main factors that guide commer-cial banks' decision whether to finance a project." Dr. Salah said. "If they insist on physical collateral for every small loan, then many projects would not take off at

"There are thousands of entrepreneurs out there who are unable to provide the collateral to the banks and hence their ideas remain on paper," he said. The corporation makes it possible for them to get oans without collateral.

The eorporation offers guarantees from 50 to 75 per cent of the loan amount, with a ceiling of JD 40,000. The rest of the risk is carried by the concerned bank itself in line with its respective policy

National oil and gas company to be established;

that might include a stipulation that the beneficiary produce a token part of the capital.

The loans are available for projects in the industrial as well as the services sector in contrast to an earlier policy of restricting lending to industrial units. Loans for less than JD

20,000, for projects outside Amman and for women entrepreneurs, automatically qualify for 75 per cent coverage, Dr. Salah said. "This approach serves

our purpose of focusing on small businessmen, development of rural areas and encouragement of women to participate in economic activities." he

Another key goal of the corporation, he added, is to create job opportunities without having to invest huge amounts. Dr. Salah said studies in-

dicate that creating a job in a small-scale venture costs about JD 2,500, while it costs JD 6.000 in a mediumsize venture and JD 30.000 in large scale project. The sole income of the

corporation is a 1.5 per cent "guarantee fees" levied from the commercial banks. The levy is calculated on a "ceiling" amount determined by the banks and corporation in individual agreements.

For instance, a bank which has fixed JD 100,000

the corporation's guarantee, pays 1.5 per cent of that amount to the corporation regardless of the amount actually guaranteed.

"Some banks are veru active with the facilities that we offer, while others are not," said Dr. Salah. Obviously those which are inactive need a little bit of

"That is why we are pursuing our own aggressive marketing approach." he said. "We are directly knocking at the doors of potential entrepreneurs to advise them how they could make use of us through commercial banks."

So far, the corporation has turned down only two applications out of 60 it received, he said. "The first rejection came because the applicant had a record of defaulting on loans, and the second was because we faced a serious lack of information."

The guarantees are available for professionals like doctors and engineers who want to set up their own ventures, he said. About 10 of the guarantees extended so far benefitted doctors.

Another factor that should help small entrepreneurs is a lower interest rate on the loans because of the iron-clad guarantee provided by the corporation since that reduces the risk

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Iran

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on his country's national day. The King Jordan to exhibit in Bahrain wished the Iranian president continued bealth and bappiness and further progress and prosperity to the Iranian people.

the university to mark its official inauguration customs duty. which took place Feb. 6.

apper net centy of in-setven Mr. **RSCN plants trees Monday**

the Royal Society for the Conservation of previous day, Thursday, the ministry fined Nature (RSCN) will take place Monday, Feb. 169 merchants, of whom 85 were in the I3, 1995, in the Noor Al Hussein forest. This Amman region. Since the start of Ramadan, is the sixth forest planted by RSCN. Over the ministry said it fined 1,507 merchants past 10 years, RSCN bas planted trees on mainly for failing to abide by Ministry of plots of land donated by the Ministry of Supply regulations.

appeal for an n ind mean Minister, Omani envoy meet Smuggling attempt foiled of from monde

HILAZ RAILE water-related fields.

Abu Qoura honoured

MARKET PRICE AMMAN (Petra) - Former president of the presented to Dr. Abu Qoura at a meeting of the Queen Alia Fund for social development the JNRCS's General Assembly held under (QAF).

the chairmanship of current society President Mohammad Al Hadid. Dr. Hadid reviewed at AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Husthe meeting the society's activities and sein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to achievements in 1994.

and potash.

AMMAN (Petra) — Agricultural Markening Organisation (AMO) Director General Salem Lawzi said Saturday that the department had Prince Mohammad tours Al al Bayt started registering the names of Jordanian exporters of agricultural products wishing to MAFRAQ (Petra) — His Royal Highness take part in a Jordanian fair due to be held in Prince Mohammad, the personal representa-Bahrain between April 17 and 21. He said tive of the King, Saturday visited Al al Bayt that the fair will be the first of its kind to be University where he was briefed by President attended by Jordan in the Gulf region after a Mohammad Al Bakhit on its objectives and break of 10 years. Mr. Lawzi noted that under pbilosophy, Prince Mohammad and Dr. an agreement with Bahrain, Jordanian ex-Bakhit toured exhibitions currently beld at ports to the island country are exempt from

1,507 merchants fined in Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Supply AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Saturday announced that Friday its teams Her Majesty Queen Noor, the annual tree have fined 121 merchants, 36 in Amman planting ceremony (arbor day) organised by alone, for violating supply regulations. On the

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Depart-Irrigation Saleb Irsheidat Saturday met with ment in Amman announced Saturday that it Omani Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad foiled an attempt at smuggling foreign made Ben Sultan Albusaid. Dr. Irsheidat and the cigarettes to Jordan. It said that 1,064 cartons Omani envoy discussed bilateral ties and of foreign cigarettes were being smuggled in a means of enhancing them, particularly in vehicle through the free zone in Safawi and the illicit goods were transferred to Amman Customs Department to deal with the case.

Ramadan campaign in Ailoun

Jordan National Red Crescent Society AJLOUN (Petra) - The Ramadan charity (JNRCS), Ahmad Abu Qoura, Saturday re- campaign, which started on Feb. 1, will be ceived a medal presented to him by the Qatari lannebed in the Ajloun area Sunday. At least Red Crescent Society in appreciation of his 200 boy scouts and girl guides will be involved services to the International Red Cross and in collecting contributions for the needy in the Red Crescent movements. The medal was course of the campaign which is organised by

(Continued from page 12)

interes holding colorful bai- men and photographers were

The state news agency said

green-white-and-red Iranian flags and portraits of Khomeini.

not able to register the massive presence of people."

Mr. Rafsanjani told the

rally:
"I admit the point that will get them nowbere.

foreign firms offered drilling opportunities By Amy Henderson Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Drilling

opportunities are on offer to foreign oil and gas exploration companies in a bid to rejuvenate exploranon efforts in the Kingdom. Director General of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Fakhri Daghes-tani told the Jordan Times. This, coupled with the establishment of a national oil and gas company, to be privatised in the future and now awaiting Cabinet approval, will hopefully give more momentum to

exploration, he said.

The creation of the company follows the Council of Ministers' approval, last July, of a recommendation by a ministerial panel to ser up a company for oil and gas exploration and explotration. Theoretically. the company already exists within the structure of the NRA, Dr. Daghestani said. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is waiting for a Cabinet decision. which is expected within the next two months. The rest "is just a shuffle of paperwork," he said, adding that company business could be

rolling as soon as June.

2:30 p.m.

Although the NRA is currently responsible for all exploration and drilling operations in the Kingdom, eight foreign companies have drilled in Jordan during the last 30 years under production-sharing arrangements. All, however, pulled out during the last two years, Dr. Daghestani said. The last to leave the Kingdom was Hambo. a Korean company rhat left in

late 1994. "Recently, Jordan has invited 60 well-known international companies to explore," Dr. Daghestani said. "We will enter into negotiations for producnon-sharing agreements on a first-come, first-serve basis," he added. Eight companies have responded to the invitation to date. However, Dr. Daghestani would not disclose their names, or the terms on

During the last 30 years only 92 wells have been drilled in Jordan - 16 by foreign companies under production, sharing arrangements and the balance by the NRA in the Azraq, Risheh and Sirhan

Jordan relies on natural gas found in the northeastern Risheh fields, near the Iraqi border, for nearly I5-17 per cent of its electricity needs - nearly six per cent of Jordan's total energy consumption. Drilling in the Risheh area produces 900,000 cubic metres of natural gas per day (equivalent in thermal energy to 450 barrels of oil), the director said. Jordan imports approximately 4 million tonnes of petroleum to fulfill the balance of its energy needs — with a price tag of JD 315 per annum. equivalent to nine per cent of Jordan's gross domestic product or 15 per cent of the total value of imported

Discovery of oil at the Hamzeh field, in Azraq. during the mid-80s allowed for an original production of 600 barrels per day, Dr. Daghestani said, but has diminished to only 25 barrels per day, which means that for all practical purposes, this field is finished. Drilling in the Sirhan area was never productive.

However, Dr. Daghesta-ni told the Jordan Times. these should not discourage continuing drilling. "These areas only cover a total of about 10,000 square kilometres out of a total of 70.000 (square kilometres) which have sedimentary rocks (necessary indicators for oil)," the director said. The only area in the King-dom actually not suitable for exploration is the Aqaba region, he continued. "This means 60,000 square kilometres are unexplored or under-explored, which gives us an indication that potential still exists and that drilling effort so far has been very slow."

He attributes the slow pace of drilling to the tedious bureaucracy of the NRA, especially in the Perroleum Department which he describes as "unbelievably bureaucratic and tremendously oversiaffed." Dr. Daghestani said he

hopes that the decision of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to establish a state-owned national oil exploration company should speed up the pace of exploration in these unexplored areas. "Exploration will no

doubt be more efficient, he said. "A company will have total freedom in all matters - finance, hiring and firing, securing equip-ment — because the whole petroleum exploration apparatus of the NRA will be shifted from operation under civil service rules to panies and labour laws."
The bottom line, he said, is that the company will be profit driven.

The question that remains is: Can such a company be profitable and can it reduce the Kingdom's expenditure on imported oil? The fact of the matter, Dr. Daghestani said, is that "no maner if drilling is carried our by the NRA or by a national company, oil exploration is still a hit or miss endeavour - things could really rocket, or we could lose. The classical economic approach does not apply

The capital of the company is yet undetermined, but Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh said he hoped that profit from natural gas production would be used as venture capital to further oil exploration. All current fixed assets will be transferred to the company.

Dr. Daghestani said he expected that the company would be privatised as quickly as possible. The law stipulates that a national company must produce two annual reports before being offered to private investors,

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the - Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "Japan in the Next concerned institutions.

PLAYS

The Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

FILM र्फ Film entitled "Bird" at the American Center at

Ten Years" with the participation of Mr. Abdul Hadi Majali and Mr. Farid Al Sa'd at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Play (in Arabic) entitled "An Office to Solve A Exhibition of paintings under glass entitled Problems" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 "Oriental Roots" by Fatiha Rahou at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American & Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra

☆ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

* Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy.

Al Basba at Darat Al Funun. Also showing another exhibition entitled "Phase II-Doors and Windows" by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh and works by contemporary Arab artists.

 ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.

International Hotel in Aqaba.

Iran celebrates anniversary

Was so overcrowded that day, many took along their domestic and foreign camera- children, carrying little

Islam opposes their (the West's) arrogant goals but confrontation against Islam

SEMINAR

Love letters

to Juliet win prizes in Verona :

ROME (R) - She and Romeo may have met a tragic ond 400 years ago in Shakespeare's play but the

bard's young heroine Juliet

continues to inspire lovers

around the world. A group of

Italians based in Verona, the

northern Italian city where

Shakespeare set the story of

the star-crossed lovers,

awarded prizes for the most

romantic love letter to Juliet

the amorous noblewoman.

According to the Juliet Club, a cultural association dedi-

cated to keeping her spirit

alive, letters from lovers fil-

led with joy, pain, confusion and regret have been flood-

ing in since 1937. They are addressed, simply, to: Juliet,

Verona. "They come in all

languages - Turkish,

Chinese, Japanese — so we often have to call on interpre-

ters to help us answer them," said Susanna Mariotti, who

bas organised the third annual "Dear Junet" Com-

petition, which is sponsored

by the city. She said that in addition to the lovers' epis-

ties, Juliet regularly received

wedding invitations and

Valentine's Day eards.

Countless lovers and Juliet

fans visit what local tradition

says is her tomb and the

house where she grew up. Over the past 50 years Romeo's lover has received

over 20,000 letters and this

year alone, her mailbox over-

flowed with some 4,500 of

them. Ms. Mariotti told Reu-

ters a committee of volum-

teers - mostly women -

send personal, hand-written

responses to each missive.

"They sign them 'Juliet's secretary," she said. The

award, a simple silver medal-

lion, was shared this year by a

French World War II veteran

and a young woman science student from the town of

Rovigo near Verona.

Woman shortage

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

There will be a million more

young men of marriageable

age than women in China by

2020 because of the policy of

limiting children to one per family and the traditional

preference for males, a U.S.

study has concluded. The gender gap could profoundly affect Chinese society, said

Marcus Feldman, a resear-

cher at Stanford University

and author of the demog-

raphic study published Friday

still goes on," Mr. Feldman

said. "Infanticide traditional-

ly happens in China, but how

often that goes on now is

difficult to say." Modern

techniques that make it possi-

ble to determine the sex of a

foetus such as amniocentesis

and ultrasound, are used in

China to decide on abortions,

the researcher said. The

scarcity of women could

mean that men from families

of modest means will find it

more difficult to find a mate,

he said. It may also lead to a

growth in prostitution in the

Gendarmes are

show stoppers

for car bonnet

lovers

country, be said.

the U.S. journal Science "Sex selection is illegal, but it

looms in China

Greece rallies support to lift Yugoslavia sanctions

Serb shells hit Bihac

hit the U.N.-protected Muslim town of Bihac in northwest Bosnia Saturday on the third day of fighting between Muslim and Serb forces for possession of its water

supply.
Muslim-controlled Sarajevo radio said two civilians were killed when two shells slammed into the town close to a base used by a battalion of Bangladeshi peacekeepers.

The U.N. confirmed only one death but blamed Serb forces, from either Bosnia or nearby Croatia, for a deliberate attack on the safe area.
The Bosnian Serb Army has launched a courter offen-

sive south and west of Bihac to recapture ground lost to Muslim-led government troops last month.
The Bihac fighting breaks a Bosnian ceasefire which

took effect at New Year and

has mostly held across the rest of the country. Muslim officials in Bihac. reporting to the Sarajevo government by radio, accused the Bosnian Serbs of using tanks and artillery west

of the town. They said government 5th Corps troops were under in-fantry and artillery assault further north, in the wider Bihac enclave near the town of Velika Kladusa which is

held by Serb-backed Muslim rebels opposed to Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb Army sources also reported fighting around Bihac town and claimed Croatian helicopters had been landing on Muslimheld territory since Friday

The 5tb Corps is completely surrounded by Serbs and be resupplied by air.

Although the Bihac fighting has been contained locally so far, the U.N. fears that it could destabilise the wider ceasefire if it continues or

Neither the rebel Muslims nor Croatian Serbs from the neighbouring self-styled Republic of Serb Krajina, who are allied with them, are part

of the truce agreement. The Serbs and rebels also keep the U.N. at arms length, making it difficult for the peacekeepers to monitor

what is going on accurately.
Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) denied a claim by the commander of the Bosnian government army that people in Bihac were starving ro dearh under a Serb blockade of interna-

They acknowledged that food shortages were serious but said they had seen no deaths from starvadon.

Croatian Serb Prime Minister Borislav Mikelic said in a newspaper interview that his forces would not start a war with Zagreb if U.N. peacekeepers were with-drawn from Croatia but would defend themselves if attacked.

We won't be the first to use force but, if forced, we will know how to respond, he told the Serbian daily Dnevnik

Zagreb has ordered the 12,000 peacekeepers in Croatia to pack up and leave within three months of the expiry of their mandate on

Most are deployed within the self-declared Krajina Serb Republic set up on

during Zagreb's war for independence from Yugoslavia in

Although the U.N. does not recognise the republic and accepts that its territory belongs to Zagreb, the Croatia government believes the peacekeepers' presence provides Krajina Serb leaders with an excuse to avoid a political settlement.

Despite foreign criticism and warnings of renewed war Croadan President Franjo Tudiman insisted Friday that U.N. peacekeepers will have to leave Croatia after their mandate expires on March

Senior U.N. and Western officials have warned Mr. Tudiman that throwing out the U.N. troops could lead to renewed fighting in Croatia.
The three-year-old U.N. mission belped end a 1991 war

that cost at least 10,000 lives. Mr. Tudjman ordered the peacekeepers out because he believes they have failed in their key missions of returning refugees to rheir homes and reintegrating about a third of Croatian territory now controlled by rebel

Speaking to reporters Friday, Mr. Tudjman said he would allow international observers along Croatia's borders if a political agreement is reached with the re-bel Serbs. The observers would help ease the rein-tegration of Serb-held territory into Croatia proper, he

Earlier this week, the Croatian Serbs froze economic negotiations with Mr. Tujdman's government in response to its decision ro end the U.N. peacekeeping mis-

Mediators had hoped the economic talks could lead to a broader political deal. But when they presented one last week, the Croatian Serbs refused to discuss it unless the peacekeepers were allowed

Mr. Tudiman predicted Friday there would be no outbreak of war once rbe

peacekeepers withdraw. "There will be no war, but there might be isolated incihe said. Croatia dents. made the move hoping it would "speed up the peace process in former Yugos-

Mr. Tudjman acknowledged that the attitude of Serbia's powerful President Slobodan Milosevic was critical to getting the Croatian Serbs to accept peace.

Mr. Milosevic has cooled his support for Serbs in both Croada and Bosnia, and Bosnian Serbs already have said they would fight ou the side of their Croatian brethren in case of a renewed conflict

Meanwhile, Greece has rallied support from Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Hungary for moves to get U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia lifted, Greek Foreiga Minister Carolos Papoulias said

Emerging from talks in this northern Greek port city with his Yugoslav counterpart Vladislav Jovanovic, Mr. Papoulias said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev bad also expressed interest in a joint motion to ask the U.N. Security Couocil ro lift the sanctions imposed in late 1991.

Never again says Mandela of Robben Island jail

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela, celebrating with 1,300 other former inmates the fifth annivesary of his release from political imprisonment, on Saturday vowed:

"Never, never again. After a jubilant welcome by former prisoners of the Robben Island political jail in Cape Town's Table Bay, Mr. Mandela said his country's history of racism and resistance was "a towering monument of lessons for the fu-

clare with confidence and conviction: Never, never again shall South Africa imprison its citizens simply because they disagree with the government of the day.

"The time for freedom, human rights, democracy and openness has come to pass," he said in an opening address to a conference on the future of the prison island, where he had spent nearly a quarter of

Mr. Mandeia, 76, made no specific recommendation for the island which has a nature reserve and lighthouse station and still houses about 760 ordinary criminals, but said any decision should... "respect the feelings of those who hold the island sacred."

He announced the formation of a presidential commission to gather suggestions and advise him on opoons for the low 2.5 square mile (6.5 square kilometre) island of sand and scrub.

will be submitted to the president for a final decision," he

Mr. Mandela made an emotional return to the island Friday, visiting the white lime quarry where thousands of political offenders broke rocks in the barsh African

He embraced former prison colleagues, shook hands

with white warders and had lunch with fellow veterans in a tent on the beach that was off limits to them as pris-

"When we were daily stripped naked in the biting winter cold, when we were toftured, when we' were forced to break stones at the quarry - never for a moment did we allow this to break our spirits," Mr. Mandela said Saturday.

"From the darkness of the prison cells, we knew there was light and a greater truth that no prison walls could hold back: The quest for freedom by the millions in our country and ahroad."

Mr. Mandela's release from a mainland prison on Feb. 11, 1990, triggered four years of negotiations that led last year to the country's first ali-race vote and Mr. Mandela's election as South Africa's

first black president. He was jailed in 1964 for

life after being found guilty of treason charges. He spent 18 of his 27 years in South African prisons on Robben Is-

On Saturday he said the black majority, denied a vote throughout the colonial history that began with a Dutch settlement in 1652, should be cautious in claiming the rights of democracy.

"In the final analysis, the greatest token of redress that all of us can get is the successful reconstruction and development of our country.

to survive the difficult conditions of prison should be put to good use in the effort to build a better life for all our

people," he said. Mr. Mandela, wbo will open the second legislative session of his parliament Friday, set no deadline for a decision on the future of Robben Island, which can be visited at present only with a government permit,

Canada by-election seen as signal on Quebec future into parliament in the 1993 election, winning 54 seats to

OTTAWA (R) - The outcome of a by-election in Quebec, one of three being held Modnay to fill vacant seats in Canada's parliament, will send a signal on the fate of the latest drive for Ouebec independence, political

analysts said. Opinion polls show the ruling Liberal Party and the Quebec separatist Bloc Quebecois running neck-andneck in the vote in the district of Brome-Missisquoi to replace a member who died.

"Personally 1 believe the liberals are going to win, bur it is very close." said University of Monrreal political scienost Louis Massicotte.

The vote will test support for Ouebec independence. The separatist movement is represented in the federal parliament by the Bloc Quebecois and in Quebec by the provincial Parti Ouebe-

The Bloc Quebecois swept

opposidon. The Parti Quebecois took power from the Liberals in the French-speaking province last year with a firm promise to hold a referendum oo separaoon sometime later

make it the official federal

Monday's by-election has become a proxy for the npcoming referendum, with the Oghtness of the race mirroring the solir in support for and against separation.

referendum period there is a bolarisation. Things are becoming more black and white." Mr. Massicotte said.

A recent poll published in a French-language weekly in the district, La Voix De L'Est (Voice of the East), shows the Bloc Quebecois candidate Jean-Francois Bertrand with 33.8 per cent of voter support. His father was once

premier of the province. Liberal candidate and former Quebec Bar Association President Denis Paradis had 31.0 per cent backing in the

The rest of the vote is shared by several small par-

But most telling is the 23 per cent who said they remained undecided, meaning the final vote could swing either way.

Political scientists said that defeat for the Bloc Quebecois would break the momentum the separatists need before the Ouebec referendum. which according to recent newspaper reports could be held as early as Inne.

In a 1980 referendum Quebeckers voted 59.6 per cent against starting the process towards independence from Canada.

But failed attempts to reform Canada's constitution have kept support for separation alive.

The Bloc Quebecois also needs to win this by-election to fend off the Reform Party, another new protest party in Ottawa, that now has only oue sear fewer than the Bloc and desperately wants to be-

come the official opposition. The three by-elections are the first electoral test for the federal Liberals under Prime Minister Jean Chretien since he and his party crushed the Conservative Party in Octo-

ber 1993. For the Liberals it is a chance to prove they can regain support among French-speakers in Quebec, outside of their Englishspeaking bastions in Mon-treal and the Ottawa region.

A victory for the Liberals would give them another well-known Quebec voice in parliament supporting the cause of keeping Canada

Shuttle lands in Florida after Mir encounter

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florand a cosmonaut landed in Florida aboard the U.S. shuttle Discovery early Saturday after eight historic days off the planet on a mission to rendezvous with Russia's space station Mir.

Shuttle Commander James Wehterbee, a U.S. Navy aviator, brought Discovery at the Kennedy Space Centre 6:50 a.m. est (1150 GMT) on a concrete runway at the Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) in Florida. Eileen Collins, the first woman shuttle pilot, was not at the controls because it is National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) policy to have mission commanders land the shuttle.

Discovery and its crew including veteran cosmonact Vladimir Titov — were returning from what NASA described as one of the most demanding of all 67 shuttle

missions to date. "Welcome home and congratulations on an outstanding mission. You all did a terrific job up there," mission control's Brent Jett radioed the crew from Houston as the shuttle roled to a stop after a journey of 3 million miles, or 130 orbits.

The flight began to merge the burnan space program-mes of the United States and Russia it set the stage for future shuttles to dock at Mir to deliver passengers and equipment. Seven such missions are planned before late

1997, when the two nations aim to begin building a new. \$40 billion space station with the help of Canada, Europe

Com. Wetherbee and Collins fired Discovery's braking rockets at 5:44 a.m. est (1144 GMT), slowing the shuttle's 17,500 mph (28,000 kph) orbital pace just enough for gravity to grah the craft and drag it back to earth."
"KSC, here we come."

Com. Whetherbee said. The winged ship U.S. landfall at 6:27 a.m est (1127 GMT) just south of Seattle. It blazed a path through the predawn skies over Denver, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Memphis, Tennessee, and Birmingham, Alabama, on its 23-minute

trek across the continent.

Discovery announced its presence near the Kennedy Spaceport with twin sonic booms that rattled windows and roused sleepers from their beds just after daybreak.

Ir was not immediately dear whether Com. Whetherbee held true to NASA tradition and permitted Collins to handle the controls briefly as the shuttle began its cross-country approach to Florida's central east coast. But he was in command when Discovery's

tyres mer the pavement.

Collins' stint in the pilot's seat outs her in line for possihle assignment to a future mission as the world's first woman space shuttle com-



this year in Namibia. Ms. Smith also won (centre), while Miss Teen USA 1994 St \$207,000. The runner-up was Shanna Lynn Gambili presents roses (AFP photo) Moakler, a 19-year-old model from New York.

Mexican army officer killed as soldiers move into rebel territory

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Soldiers bave moved unopposed into the town at the centre of a year-old rebellion, but an army officer and two policemen were killed carrying out President Ernesto Zedillo's crackdown on the

guernilias. Lt. Col. Hugo Alfredo Manterola Cedillo, 48, was killed Friday when a gunman fired on a small convoy out-side the village of Nuevo Momon, near Guadalupe Tepeyac, the de facto rebel capital in Chiapas state,

The gunman fled, and a statement from the attorney general's office said it wasn't known whether he was a Zapatista rebel.

i wo officers were killed in a raid on a rebel safe house in Mexico state Thursday night. Hours after the Nuevo Momon shooting, soldiers entered Guadalupe Tepeyac without resistance. Guerrillas of the Zapatista National Liberation Army apparently had withdrawn into the jung-

le without risking a fight. Armoured vehicles moved through Las Margaritas, on the edge of the sparsely populated canyon country that the insurgents claim. Troops turned back reporters

who followed them beyond the town. In all, the army has entered 11 villages and communities in Mexico's poorest state.

Rebel sympathisers said the troop movements could lead to open battle, ending a ceasefire that has kept the rebelliou in Chiapas quiet for

the past year. Until now the army staved out of rebel territory, with the government pinning its hopes on peace talks. But the talks produced no agreement, and Mr. Zedillo was

rally Mexico's battered peso and stock market after beavy losses triggered in part by rebel activity.

Mr. Zedilio said he would

call a special session of Congress on the uprising and would submit legislation to grant annesty to rebels who laid down their arms. The president Thursday

ordered the arrest of rebel spokesman Subcomandante Marcos and five other rebel

leaders. Com. Marcos' whereabouts were not known, but three of the other five have been arrested.

The attorney geoeral's office said it peacefully arrested a man it identified as one of the top six rebel commanders, Jorge Santiago Santiago, in the Chiapas town of Teopisca. Mr. Santiago, 50. denied any links to the Zapatista rebels, and told reporters that he did not know Com. Marcos — who bas been identified by the gov-ernment as Rafael Sebastian

Guillen Vicente, 37. The government also arrested Jorge Javier Elorreaga, who it claims is the rebel leader known as Subcomandante Vicente, and his wife, Maria Gloria Be-

Mr. Elorreaga denied in court in the state capital of Tuxtia Gutierrez Friday that he was Snbcomandante Vicente, and said he had only

met Com. Marcos briefly. 27 other rebel suspects bave been arrested in Chiapas, Mexico and Verac-

ruz states, authorities said. Two police officers were killed and three wounded when police raided a Zapatista safe house Thursday night on the outskirts of Toluca,

espital of the state of Mexico.

which borders Mexico City to the west.

Fonrteen people were arrested in the raid, and police said they found a dozen automatic firearms, a sbotgun and ammunition; The attorney general's office said the house had been used to make uniforms for the rebels, and that it had a small underground tuonel for

target practice. In Mexico City, the federal district -attorney released statements said to have been

made by people arrested oo suspicioo of being rebels. One suspect, Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara, told a judge at ber arraignment Friday that her statement had been falsified. She said it had given while she blindfolded and that she had signed it under pressure, without being allowed to read

That statement said the group had religious instructors involved in its activities since 1985 and that the bishop of San Cristobal De Las Casas, Monsignor Samuel Ruiz, had known about the rebel movement since at least 1990.

Prosecutors claimed she said Bishop Ruiz had tried to talk the rebels out of a violent uprising five months before the insurrection began on Jan. 1, 1994. At least 145 people were killed before a ceasefire took hold 12 days

A spokesman for Bishop Ruiz's diocese declined comment on the claim. Bishop Ruiz acted as a mediator in

government-rebel talks. In Washington, the State Department urged Mexico to exercise restraint in the Chiapas operation but said the action will not damage bilateral relations.

LE HAVRE, France (AFP)

 Suspicious gendarmes who went to investigate a crowd of people in the dead of night on a lonely country road found a married couple having sex on their car bonnet cheered on by 15 voyenrs. The gendarme patrol ordered coitus interruptus close to the village of Saint-Vigor-d'Ymonvilles near here and charged the couple with public indecency. The couple said it was not their first "show" - which they carried out gratis - and the wife said she did it only to please her husband, gen-Divisions in the party could darmes quoted them as weaken the Republican posisaying. The couple was freed after being held for question-

Car logo thieves nabbed In Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — Two Shangbai teenagers who amassed a collection of 110 logos stolen from Cadillacs, Toyota Lexus and Crown Sedans and Mercedes limousines have been arrested, the Liberation Daily said Tuesday. The two 18-year-old students began looting logos in October last year, adding to a spate of similar crimes in the city, the paper said. Each logo costs 2,000 yuan (\$237) to 8,000 yuan (\$948) to replace, it

Republican presidential race shapes up with Dole-Gramm vying for top spot

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - Dan Quayle's decision to skip the 1996 presidential race leaves Senator Bob Dole and Phil Gramm as the new campaign landscape.

Mr. Quayle, who was vice president from 1989 to 1993 under George Bush, made the surprise announcement Thursday, joining a list of at least three other candidates who bowed out after they failed to win backing from major campaign contribu-

His exit prompted Mr. Gramm, a hardline conservative from Texas, to quickly move in on Quayle supporters, many of whom are Christiao fundamentalists bent on bringing morality issues back into U.S. politics.

But according to a CNN-USA Today poll, the with-drawal of Mr. Quayle from the race provides a boost to Sen. Dole, who reportedly has won the backing of 45 per cent of Republicans compared to g per cent for Mr.

Gramm. Sen. Dole. who was first elected to Senate 30 years ago and became majority leader following the Republican landslide in November, is considered a middle-of-theroad conservative who is open to compromise.

The poll also indicated that voter support was stronger for Sen. Dole than for Bill Clinton with 51 per cent of those surveyed saying they would vote for Sen. Dole if an election were held today compared to 44 per cent who chose Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Gramm, who bas pieced together a platform appealing mostly to the party's right wing, would appear to be less of a formidable adversary to Mr. Clinton than Sen. Dole but that could change as the GOP struggles with internal divisions.

Republicans, emboldened by their success in the November midterm elections, nevertheless face serious challenges in preserving party unity over contentious

issues such as abortion. White House spokesman Michael McCurry predicted Friday that abortion foes were poised to play a key role in the Republican nominadon as anti-abortion extremists gain momentum in the ranks of the GOP.

idential poll and would play in Clinton's favour. Aside from Sen. Dole and Mr. Gramm, former education secretary Lamar Alexander has announced plans to seek the Republican nomina-

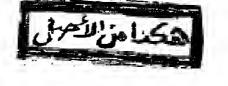
dou while others are mulling

tion ahead of the 1996 pres-

over their decision. These include Governors Pete Wilson from California. William Weld from Massachusetts, Tommy Thompson from Wisconsin as well as Senators Richard Lugar from Indiana, Arlen Specter from Pennsylvania and political commentator Pat Buchanan.

considering nomination. But Mr. Gramm and Sen. Dole already have a strong

Former Secretary of State James Baker is also said to be advantage over possible rivals. financial backing. added.



Balladur under fire for student U-turn

PARIS (R) - France's con- of the Socialist Party, said the servative Prime Minister suspension was a "spectacu-Edouard Balladur came lar proof of (Balladur's) inunder fire Saturday for bowing to student protests, with his political opponents saying he was not fit to be voted president in coming elections.

Shown by polls to be hot favourite to succeed French President François Mitterrand in May, Mr. Balladur said Friday he had suspended new rules tightening admission to universities. The changes were criticised by students at France's 90 technology institutes as hmiting their access to university.

Opponents on left and right denonnced Mr. Balladur for hacking down after a week of student protests in towns across France, saying it illustrated confusion and dithering in Mr. Balladur's

Jean Glavany, spokesman

ability to hold high office" and that it showed he had "neither wisdom nor calm nor authority."

"What seems worrying for the future is the method of government," said Jeau-Francois Mancel, a parliamentarian who supports Mr. Balladur'a main conservative rival for the presidency, Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac.

Mr. Balladur's method "consists in making errors through lack of discussion and then, after taking one step forward, taking two steps back," he said.

Mr. Balladur said Friday that the atudents were protesting because of a misunderstanding about new rules, affecting 100,000 students at so-called university technology institutes, which give two-year courses ranging

He says his style is to reform without confrontation. Several thousand students protested Friday in cities including Nantes, Grenohle, Toulouse, Montpellier and

They said they planned new actions next Thursday, saying Mr. Balladur should scrap the rule rather than merely suspend it. Mr. Balladur has often

been criticised for caving in too easily during his 23 months in power to street protests by groups ranging from students to fishermen. Education Minister Francois Fillon would meet students, teachers and heads of

the technology institutes

Tuesday to discuss the dis-

"Either our circular is hadly phrased, and we'll correct it, or there are people who



Edocard Balladur are deliberately deforming the message with obvious political aims," he told

France Info radio. An opinion poll due in the weekly magazine Le Point Saturday showed Mr. Balladur would beat Mr. Chirac by 60-40 per cent margin and defeat Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin 58-42 per cent.

Top defector says Khmer Rouge turning desperate, more hardline

PHNOM PENH (AFP) -Military hardliners have taken full control of the Khmer Rouge as it reels from a rash of defections, according to accounts Saturday of hriefings hy the most senior official to quit the movement since 1979.

Interior Minister Sar Kheng told AFP that the defector, Sar Kim Lamouth, had been secretly hriefing government officials on the state nf the Khmer Rouge since November.

Mr. Sar Kim Lamouth had been in charge c; the guerrillas' finances and was currently in a "safe house" somewhere in Cambodia, he said.

Reports of the debriefing sessions with government officials said Mr. Sar Kim Lamouth had highlighted the increasing desperation of Khmer Rouge leaders in dealing with a wave of defections in recent months.

The Phnom Penh Post quoted sources who have spoken to Mr. Sar Kim Lamouth as saying Khmer Rouge leaders were particularly distressed over the Thai government's closure of its border with Cambodia.

Moreover hardline military commanders are reported to have gained the upper hand "We are not talking any more about a political solntion, only armed struggle," the paper quoted the defector

as saying.

But, the report went on to say that many Khmer Rouge rank-and-file no longer have the heart to continue

The group is firmly under the control of Pol Pot. architect of the radical policies of the 1970s that left more than a million dead, and General Ta Mok.

"Moderates" such as nominal leader Khien Samphan have had their power stripped, the paper quoted Mr. Sar Kim Lamouth as saying.

Haiti to hold elections in May or June

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) - Legislative and local elections — a key test of Haiti's return to democracy - will be held in late May or early June, an election official said

The need to hold elections is pressing because the terms of almost every elected official — from senators to town councilors expired Feh. 4. Until the elections, there is a

The five-year term of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, reinstated Oct. 15 by U.S. soldiers after three years of army rule, expires in Febru-

Local and legislative elections had been set for December but were delayed by the tumult surrounding Mr. Aristide's return and parliamentary wrangling over an elections bill.

Marie-Laurence Jocelyn

Lassegue, secretary-general of the nine-member Electoral Council, told the Associated Press that elections would be beld by the end of May or

early June. The exact date will be fixed once Mr. Aristride publishes an election law, sent to him last week by parliament, in the official state gazette. Lesilie Voltaire, Mr. Aristide's chief of staff, said the law will be published early

U.S. to sign U.N. child treaty in honour of UNICEF's Grant

lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has announced the United States would sign the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child in honour of UN-ICEF's late director, James

Mrs. Clinton, attending a memorial service for Mr. Grant, who died on Jan. 28, said: "I am pleased to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations convention on the rights of the child."

"Nobody fought harder for it than Jim Grant and this convention to protect the rights of children through the world. We owe it to him and to the children to whom he

vice, held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, that President Bill Clinton had instructed Secretary of State Warren Christopher to take the necessary steps Thursday. U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright will sign the convention next week.

The convention, initiated by Mr. Grant, became international law in September 1990 and sets universally accepted standards to protect children. It also deals with neglect and abuse which children face in all countries and draws attention to children explosed to economic and sexual exploitation.

Because the convention

which in the United States are primary the responsibility of the states, President George Bush decided not to

sign the treaty. Mr. Grant, an American who was head of UNICEF for 15 years, died of cancer last month. His directorship brough the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) internation-

He was a pioneer in recognising revolutions in the drug and health industry and promoted simple, low-cost methods for child welfare immunisation, oral rehydration and breastfeeding - that could be instituted throughont the world's poorest coun-

Report: Washington plans bigger naval, air force role in Korea

SEOUL (AP) - Washington wants to focus more on its air and naval strength to deter was threats from North Korea, a newspaper reported Saturday.

A contingent of about 37.000 U.S. ticops with sophisticated weaponry hacks up South Korean forces as they face the Communist North's army of 1 million in the cold war's last major military stan-

The Joong-Ang Daily News, quoting a draft of Washington's new Asia-Pacific military plans, said Washington has decided to keep the current level of military forces here because a conventional military threat from North Korea still exists.

Washington plans to add to its naval and air force strength and intelligencegathering capability as a deterrence while allowing South Korean ground forces to play

a bigger role, it said. Officials at South Korea's Defence Ministry acknowledged the existence of a U.S. draft plan but refused to discuss it, saying negotiations are continuing and the plan is far from final.

But the news report said the South Korean military is unhappy with the changes, fearing they might hamper Seoul's efforts to strengthen its own navy and air force. and create an "unbalanced

Washignton also asked Seoul to pay more for the costs of maintaining the U.S. forces in Sonth Korea, the

newspaper said. U.S. officials have said Washington wants to lower the profile of the American military here, shifting to a support role in defending South Korea.

In the first of a three-stage force-reduction programme, the United States withdraw 7,000 troops by 1991. The second stage, calling for another 6,500 troops to be pulled out by the end of 1993. was suspended during nuclear negotiations with Pyon-

gyang.
The 17-month-old nuclear standoff was defused by a landmark U.S.-North Korea deal last October, in which the North agreed to freeze and eventually dismantle its nuclear programme in return for economic aid and di-

plomatic ties. But tensions remain high on the Korean peninsula, with both sides slandering each other and amassing nearly 2 million troops around the border, the

world's most heavily armed. Meanwhile, North Korean

negotiators returned home

Saturday after stalemated

talks with Washington on get-

ting two modern nuclear

reactors from the West, the North's official media re-

A brief dispatch hy the Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) did not comment on the results of the talks deadlocked over the North's refusal to accept South Koreandesigned reactors. Washington has warned that the North's recalcitrance could scuttle their landmark nuc-

lear deal signed lat October. Under the deal, North Korea was promised two light-water reactors in return for closing down its graphite reactors that produce far more plutonium, which could be diverted to arms use.

South Korea is willing to pay the bulk of the \$4 billion cost of the reactor project but says it will do so only when its model is adopted.

North Korea, which fought a war with South Korea in 1950-53, resents the prominent role given its neighbour in executing the agreement. North Korean negotiators met with U.S. representa-

tives in Berlin last week and are to meet again in March at a location not yet chosen. The Japanese and South Korean foreign ministers agreed in Tokyo Saturday that the two Koreas should pursue talks in tandem with the North a macheal acat with

the United States, the Kyodo

News Agency said.

passes \$10.5 b prison bill

U.S.

House

WASHINGTON (AP) -The House of Representatives Friday passed a crime bill that boosts federal funds for state prisons but denies them to states that don't put and keep more violent criminals behind bars. The Republican-controlled

House also passed, 380-20, legislation to deport criminal aliens more quickly after they get out of prison.

The two bills are Nos. 4

and 5 in a six-part package, part of the Republican Party's "Contract With Amer-ica" programme, which aims to remold a 1994 anti-crime law. President Bill Clinton suggested this week he might veto hills that dismantle key elements of last year's law. The prison measure passed

by 265 votes to 156. It raises funding for new prisons to \$10.5 billion, \$2.6 million more than authorised in the crime package passed by the Democratic-controlled Congress last year. In return, states would be required to impose stricter sentences.

Half the \$10.5 billion would be given only to states with so-called "truth-in-sentencing" laws requiring se-rious violent felons to serve at least 85 per cent of their sentences. The other half would go only to those states that increase the percentage of violent convicts sent to prison and increase the average time they serve behind

The House adopted, by voice vote, a Republican amendment that would allow states to use up to 15 per cent of the prison grants for building short-term jails, provided they require people charged with violent felonies to post bond to be released before

Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the senior Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, called the provision

"a disturbing proposal."
"What if the person doesn't have cash? What if the person doesn't have any previous convictions?" Mr. Conyers asked fellow lawmakers.

The criminal alien deportation bill would streamline the deportation process and expand the scope of crimes for which aliens can be deported.

Under current law, aliens who commit aggravated felonies can be deported. The bill would enlarge the definition of an aggravated felony to include transporting people far prostitution: serious briberv. counterfeiting or forgery; serious trafficking in stolen vehicles: trafficking in counterfeit immigration documents and obstruction of justice, perjury or bribing

Earlier this week, the House passed bills that would require criminals to pay full restitution to their victims for damages, impose a one-year limit for death row inmates to file appeals to federal courts, and expand the authority of courts to use evidence that is illegally obtained.

In a related development, House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said the United States should focus its post-cold war security concerns on terrorism, particularly Islamic regimes such as Iran's.

"I cannot overstate the potential dangers that Iran represents," Mr. Gingrich said, defending earlier statements supporting the overthrow of the Tehran govern-

U.S. halts arms sales to Quito, Lima The statement did not make clear if Mr. Arias and

ONE, Peru (Agencies) — Struggling against dysentery, mosquitoes and knee-deep mud, Peru's soldiers are as much at war with the Amazon jungle as with the Ecuadorean adversaries they can't see through the thick tree cover.

The Peruvians are fighting uphill, trying to dislodge Ecuador's troops who are dug into the steep green mountainsides of the remote border strip over which the two countries went to war two weeks ago.

"It's difficult to see the Ecuadoreans through the vegetation. We know where to shoot by where their fire comes from," said 18-year-old soldier Edilmar Becera Sanchez Observation Post One, a

cluster of shacks roofed with palm-leaf and tin, has come under moratar attack five times. The latest attack Friday left four craters 3 feet (a metre) deep in the muddy bank of the Cenepa River. Each side accuses the other of starting the fighting over the unmarked, 48-mile (77

kilometres) stretch of border in the Cordillerea Del Condor Mountains on the eastern edge of the Andes. The area is 600 miles (965 kilometres) north of Lima and 220 miles (354 kilometres) southeast of Quito, Ecuador's capital.

No progress was reported Friday in peace talks in Bra-silia, the Brazilian capital. In Quito, Ecuadorean officials issued a statement calling on former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, to mediate the dis-

makeshift clinic. Mr. Carter had offered their services. There was no im-

mediate response from Peru, or from Mr. Carter and Mr. Ecuadorean officials also said Friday that land and air attacks by both sides had intensified. They said they

Ecuador downs 2 Peruvian planes

shot down two Peruvian planes. There was no confirmation from Peru. Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said that 16 Peruvian warplanes attacked the

Ecuadorean post of Tiwintza. Gen. Vladimiro Lopez Trigoso, commander of the Peruvian force, said it's taking longer than expected to force Ecuador's forces out of Tiwintza and other areas.

We advance a metre per hour," said Gen. Lopez Tir-But he blamed the jungle, not Ecuadorean resistance, for the pace of the fighting.

At least 36 Peruvian soldies and 11 Ecuadoreans have been killed. Peru says it has suffered 60 wounded. while Ecuador admits 28 Only 40 per cent of those

treated at the Emergency Field Hospital set up at the main base in Bagua, 450 miles (725 kilometres) north of Lima, are combat wounds. The rest are treated for everything from blisters and irritating skin fungus to dysentery and hepatitis, said

the hospital's civilian director, Dr. Luis Rubio. The trip out of the Cenepa headwaters for medical help is an arduous two-day hike just to cover the 5 or 6 miles

(8 or 9 kilometres) to Observation Post One for basic treatment at a

To reach a hospital requires an additional 90-minute trip by helicopter, most-ly over unbroken jungle, to

Lt. Romei Alvarado, wounded in the leg by a grenade, said from his hospital bed that this fighting was worse than his experience against the Shining Path guerrillas who have waged a Maoist-inspired insurgency agamst Peru.

With the subversives it was face to face," said Lt. Alvarado, 29. "But the Ecuadoreans shoot, then run and they have mortar support. Immediately they bomh us. It's ambushing."
The United States Friday

halted government arms sales to Ecuador and Peru and suspended licences for private sector sales in what officials called a political move to push the countries to stop their border war.

The U.S. State Deparment, announcing the ban on what officials admitted were minimal sales to the two South American nations, said it understood that Argentina, Brazil and Chile were follow-

"In response to the continning conflict on the border between Ecuador and Peru, the United States govern-ment has suspended deliveries of defence articles through the U.S. foreign military sales programme," it

The statement, issued by department spokeswoman Christine Shelly, said U.S. military training programmes in Ecuador and Peru had been called off, that licences for private sector arms sales had been suspended and no new ones would be issued. U.S. officials said the practical effect of the ban on

government arms sales would be limited. They said there was nothing in the current military sales budget for Ecuador and only a \$325,000 allocation for training in

Last year, military sales to Ecuador totalled just over \$5 million, plus \$415,000 for equipment used against drug trafficking, while nothing was sold to Peru, according to official figures.

Officials and private experis said there could be more of an impact on commercial sales, especially of small arms. Ecuador and Peru "could he looking for things like handguns," said Sarah Walkling of the Private Arms Control Association. No figures for private sec-

tor sales were immediately available. In the past, the United States has sold aircraft, helicopters, Howitzers and armoured personnel carriers to both countries, but officials said much of this was of Vietnam War or earlier vintage. Peru's main battle armament is Soviet-made, incloding several hundred T-54

and T-55 tanks. "In the short term, this move is more psychological and political than anything else," said one U.S. official who asked not to be identi-

"We're showing our disple-asure. This is a signal that we want political cooperation."

It was designed to replace

the ageing four-propellor

die as test plane crashes in Ukraine

KIEV (R) - A midair collision caused the crash of an experimental cargo aircraft on a test flight, killing its seven crew, a Ukrainian government statement said

The sole working prototype of the Antonov AN-70, which Ukraine was huild-ing Jointly with Russia and Uzbekistan, crashed Friday

evening near Kiev. "The (AN-70) aircraft collided in the air with an AN-72 aircraft which was accompanying it," the statement

"The damaged AN-72 landed at the airport of its departure. According to preliminary information seven crew members of the AN-70 were killed."

The AN-70 was sitting deep in the ground in a forest near the town of Veliky Lis, about 40 kilometres, from

Only a wing stuck out of the frozen ground, and

twisted steel parts were scat-

On Saturday morning police, standing two-deep, encircled the crash site and brigades of soldiers moved into the area with show.'.. Local residents said they

the steaming crash site.

flash of light one of them started falling almost verti-

the international market for

saw two planes flying close together at dusk, then, after a Ukraine planned next year to start selling the AN-70 on

4N-12 workhorse, and designers said it could carry up to tonnes and fly up to 5,000 kilometres without re-The prototype first flew in

January 1994.

"The production of the Antonov AN-70 is a very important state programme, and we see this accident as an extremely serious tragedy, said a senior official in the presidential administration. who asked not to be named.

tered about 30 metres around military and civilian use. Key Indian state holds 2nd round of polls today

BOMBAY (R) - Up to 27 million people were due to vote Sunday in India's western state of Maharashtra in a second round of assembly elections seen as crucial to Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

simha Rao's government.

A record 75 per cent of 26 million voters cast their ballots in the first round Thursday, even though widespread confusion over the introduction of voter identity cards prevented nearly 45,000 pco-

ple from voting.
The ruling Congress Party is riven by internal dissension and smarting from election defeats in three southern states in November. Defeat in Maharashtra and five other states voting in the next two-weeks could increase dissent and might precipitate early general elections, politicians

The polls will also determine the fate of Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar, a Rao rival who staked a

ership, and thus the prime minister's joh, in 1991, in succession to the assassinated Raiiv Gandhi. .

Now Mr. Pawar is struggling to hold on to power in India's most industrialised state, whose capital is Bombay, the country's financial and commercial centre. Opinion polls have pre-

dicted that an alliance between India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Hinda militant Shiv Sena would emerge as the biggest group in a hung The latest poll, by the inde-

pendent Centre for Media Studies, said Congress was unlikely to win more than 65 or 70 seats out of a total of

The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance was seen winning 125 to 130 of the seats, just short of an overall majority.

With the central Janata

Dal Party predicted to win

In Bombay, which votes Sunday, the most emotional issue was the enmity of Muslims for Congress after Mr. Pawar jailed a large number of them under tough antiterrorist laws following 1993 bomb attacks which killed 260 people in the city. The BJP-Shiv Sena alliance

has campaigned largely on charges that Congress is corrupt. "One year ago the state looked like an impregnable citadel for the Congress, BJP President Lal Krishan Advani told Reuters.

"Thanks to corruption, that citadel is today crumbling. The people want a change of government." · Analysts said the high voter turn-out at Thursday's polls, which compared to a 1990 figure of 60 per cent,

indicated a new sense of dis-

balance of power could lie in the polling process. the hands of a loose alliance "The turn-out is an exof independents and small pression of the new enthuleft and centrist parties. siasm built up among voters by the preparatory work of

the election commission. said K. Bhaskara Rao, of the Centre for Media Studies. The Election Commission has strictly enforced campaign rules which are usually ignored and insisted on massive security to prevent the violence which often mars Indian elections and scares

voters away. "Such a turn-out would normally imply a desire for a change on the part of the voters," Mr. Rao said. Counting of votes will start on March 11, after assembly

elections in Gujarat, Bihar and Orissa states have ended. so that results in Maharashtra do not influence the voting in other states. Counting in a poll in Man-

iour state starts on Feb. 20

and vote-counting in the Aru-

nachal Pradesh state election

claim to the Congress leadbetween 45 and 50 seats, the cipline had been infused into begins on March 15. Indian troops kill 5 civilians in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (R) -Indian paramilitary forces shot dead five civilians in retaliation for an armed attack hy Kashmiri separat-

ists, police said Saturday. They said militants Friday fired from close range at a Border Security Force (BSF) unit manning a checkpoint in the old quarter of Srinagar, the summer capital of the northern state of Jamma and

Kashmir. One BSF officer died on the spot and a second died later in an army hospital. The militants escaped with a BSF service rifle, police said.
Police said paramilitary

forces then avenged the deaths by killing five civihans. Local residents and the United News of India news agency said all five were shopkeepers whose stores were near the troopers' sand bunker.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), quoting a senior security officer, said BSF troops had lost their temper and opened fire on passers-by, killing five shopkeepers and injuring 37 others. Most of the injured were

hurt in a stampede which

followed the firing hy the BSF and army forces deployed in Jammin and Kashmir are largely drawn from other parts of mostly Hindu India, while police are gener-

India's only Muslim-majority The bodies of the five victims were handed over to their families Saturday morning, police said. Paramilitary forces fanned out across the old city Saturday to prevent any protest demonstrations.

ally residents of the state,

Business and transport ground to halt in the Kashmir Valley Saturday as residents marked the 11th anniversary of the death of Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, founder of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), who was hanged by authorities in 1984

Almost all shops and other commercial establishments in the valley were closed and there was little traffic. Most government offices were

Police and hospital officials say more than 17,000 people have been killed since a rebellion against Indian rule

broke out four years ago. Meanwhile the fugitive head of Bombay's mainly Muslim underworld group, Dawood Ibrahim, has offered to surrender to face trial for a string of bomb hlasts in India's financial capital two years ago, a mediator said

Bombay lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani said Mr. Ibrahim, a key accused in the hlasts which killed 260 people on March 12, 1993, had made the offer a few months ago through leading Indian lawyer Ram Jethmalam from a hideout "in a European

country.

Ram Jethmalani, a member of parliament who once contested the Indian presidency, Police had initially denied Mr. Jethmalani's claim. But in a Thursday report submitted to the judge investigating the bomb blasts, India's Central Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Mahesh is the son of

(CBI) set out the terms of Mr. Ibrahim's surrender. This is the first time these statements are being brought on record," the CBI spokesman told the court.

The report recorded state-

ments by Mr. Jethmalani and his son on how they had communicated Mr. Ibrahim's offer to the Bombay Policeand atate Chief Minister

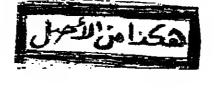
Sharad Pawar.

"At first, the concerned officials denied they had met my father," Mr. Mahesh Jethmalani told Reutera. "That was false." Mahesh Jethmalani said Mr. Ibrahim's conditions for surrender included that he be

tried only for the blasts and that he be kept under house arrest during the trial. The 40-year-old Ibrahim. also wanted in several cases of gangland killings, is the son of a former police in-

spector. He started as a petty criminal who rose to prominence in Bombay's underworld and fled to Dubai in the mid-1980s after being accused of gunning down a rival in a courtroom. He is believed to run a wide-ranging

gangster network in Bombay. Police say they have evidence to show that the plastic explosive used in the bomb blasts was brought into India through a network set up by Mr. Ibrahim



Jordan Times

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOSSAMMAD AMAD Ecitor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Forder Press Foundation. 10riversity Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facs:mile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

New chance for unfortunate

WHILE THE phenomenon of beggary has been with us since time immemorial, the problem seems to acquire an added dimension during the month of Ramadan. Many theories have been offered to explain this socio-economic disease ranging from poverty to exploitation. The minister of social development, Salwa Damen-Masri, has recently decided to examine the situation and seek remedies. What is still unknown is the methodology that her ministry will deploy for this purpose. Even more important is the availability of funds to deal with the aspects of the problem that are basically economic in nature. Still once the root causes of beggary are identified, its resolution can be that much more possible.

We suggest that beggary is in most part an seconomic problem deep-rooted in the unemplayment crisis and the overall poverty ectadition prevailing in the country. On that score alone, it would seem that the answer to the dire economic conditions of so many Jordanians must not be found in beggary. The government must provide some measures to deal with extreme poverty cases impite of the meagre resources available to it. There is still much fat in the state's expenditures that can be avoided and a Traction of the funds earmarked for them Everted to pressing socio-economic cases. Amount cars driven by officials is one obvious smanple. Productivity within governmental circles is nowhere near satisfactory and in the process much waste occurs on daily basis. Improving the efficiency of the public sector could thus " e some funds for use in Cleviating the hardships of less unfortunate

The list of what can be done and bow it can he done is indeed long and exhaustive. But having said that, we must accept the proposition that the phenomenon of beggary is not totally motivated by economic factors. In some circles, beggary bas unfortunately become a profession and some form of racketeering. Many beggars are known to refuse work opportunities when offered jobs menial though they may be - because they prefer beggary as a more profitable trade. And this aspect of the problem also needs to be tackled and weeded out from our midst.

Countless other countries suffer from the very same problem we face in Jordan. Recall the plight of the homeless, street children and other hapless people in such great cities as Washington D.C. and London, and you might discover that our problems here might pale in comparison. But we must admit that, regardless of what is happening elsewhere, we have a problem on our hands and we must strive harder to tackle and solve it.

REABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the planned Arab-Israeli meeting in Washington under U.S. auspices, Al Ra'i daily said the meeting is being beld at a crucial stage in the peace process when Palestinian-Israeli talks are almost in deadlock. The Washington parley assumes added importance following the meeting between Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Pales:inian leader Yasser Arafat which failed due to differences over Israel's settlement programme and its continued closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strio. said the paper. The foreign ministers of Jordan. israe! Egypt and Palestine are meeting against a backdrop of pessimism over the success of the peace process and amid warnings by Egypt and France that it could collapse unless a new life is breathed into it, continued the daily. The paper said that Israel's attempt to blame the Palestinians for the present deadlock does not help the cause of prace because Ismal realities that armed resistance is a natural outcome of the continued occupation. The paper said the Weshington has a moral and serious responsibility ensuring the success of the peace process and should see to it that Israel remains committed to the

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Saturday that the !raqi foreign minister's visit to Ankara represents a gnificant development in Turkish-Iraqi relations following the Gulf war in which Turkey sided with the Western coalition. But the Iraqi minister would not need a lot of effort to persuade Turkey to improve its ties with its Arab neighbour because Turkey has realised that it was sustaining very heavy lesses due to the embargo on Iraq, said Tareq Masarweh. Furthermore, the Islamic movement inside Turkey is growing and the Islamists have claimed victory in the municipal elections of Ankara, Istanbul and 15 other main cities, thus increasing their influence on the government, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Jordan's public administration deserves credit

THE PUBLIC INFORMATION apparatus in Jordan is not alone in being subjected to strong criticism from all directions. Public administration and the entire staff of the government, are also subjected to persistent criticism. Administrative reform is a permanent slogan of every government. One committee after another is formed to tackle this formidable task but they all end up in failure. The basic question is whether it was proved that public administration in Jordan is actually bad and inefficient and that it really needs a major overhaul to eliminate incompetence and corruption from among its ranks.

It is not quite an exaggeration to assert that Jordan is blessed with the best and most efficient and bonest body of civil servants in the area, including Israel. We can cite tens of Arab and foreign businessmen, politicians and other observers who are qualified to compare and pass an objective judgement, who praised the Jordanian public administration.

Of course, we have the full right to harbour greater expectations, look for better performance, and aim at higher standards. Perfection is not attainable, and the potential for further improvement is always wide open. Perhaps it is even better if the bureaucracy remains under pressure and strict accountability in order to continue to upgrade its performance. But this is something, and the sweeping condemnation of the Jordanian public adminis-tration and the denial of its achievements and qualities, is

At the outset, we should admit that public sector management has its inherent deficiencies. This is an integral part of the nature of mentality prevailing in the public sector everywhere, because incentives are limited, competition is almost non existent and public funds don't have the respect and care that one can expect regarding private funds. But such deficiencies and shortcomings are found in every country. That is wby there is a universal call for less government and smaller public sector. It is agreed nowadays that the public sector should not be involved in producing commodities or services for the market if the private sector is able to undertake the function of production and marketing.

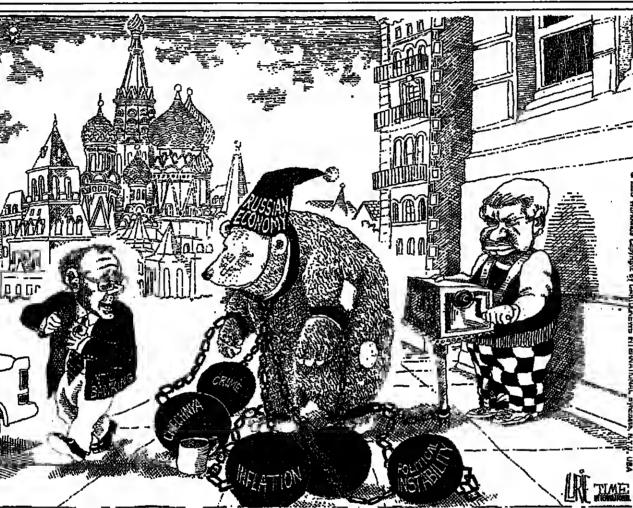
"Of course, it is our right to continue to press for administration development and upgrading as a continuous process. But it is our duty to be fair and objective and recognise excellence when we see one, and give credit where it is due."

A fair observer can't but admire and appreciate the manner by which Jordanian public activities are conducted, even when such activities and functions involve the participation of hundreds or thousands of individuals, such as summit conferences, festivals, conferences, dealing with emergencies, conducting the Jordanian-Israeli negotia-tions, the construction of the crossings to Israel, the building of bridges and tunnels in record times, etc. All these large scale activities were conducted and managed with competence, and demonstrated that team work can be

orchestrated successfully.

At the level of public institutions, we can point out several symbols of success and undeniable excellence. How can anyone rate the performance of the Passport Department, Vehicles Licensing Department, Amman Municipality, Aqaba Port Authority, King Hussein's Medical City, especially its heart centre, the Central Bank of Jordan and the national universities. This is not to mention the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department, the Intelligence Services, the Civil Defence Department, all of which are the pride of all Jordanians due to excellent performance of

Of course, it is one right to continue to press for administration development and upgrading as a continuous process. But it is our duty to be fair and objective and recognise excellence when we see one, and give credit



From Kobe and Mexico, remarkably similar messages

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG - In differing but complementary ways, the peso crisis and the Kobe earthquake should be shaking the countries and markets of Southeast Asia out of their complacency.

It is 100 early to do more than sketch out the possible longer-term impacts of Kobe. The immediate one may be beneficial for Asian (and other) producers of steel, cement, glass and so on - mainly South Korea and Taiwan.

It is possible, in the medium term, that instead of rebuilding at home. Japanese firms will relocate more plants in Southeast Asia. Alternatively, disruptions to transport may make firms wary of dispersing

component plants.

Longer term, the quake will reinforce the trend to increased import propensity in Japan, with domestic demand supplanting exports as the main source of growth in gross domestic product. This will be good for the world, and for Asian

However, it will mean a drying up of the Japanese current account surplus. Southeast Asia has been the major beneficiary of recycling of the surplus; this has financed much of the region's rapid growth. Kobe's message is that exports will remain buoyant. and large current account deficits will be increasingly difficult to finance. The re-

sult: lower growth. The message from Mexico is surprisingly similar. initially, there were a few quiet sniggers around Asia at Mexican problems: This was proof that the Latin

revival was hype, not substance. Latins did not have what it takes to emulate or challenge Asia. The smirks quickly vanished, however, when some Asian stock markets and currencies (notably the Thai baht and the Hong Kong dollar), were hit by waves of Western selling in the behef that securities. there was a string of would-Most of the Asian counbe Mexican problems in

At the macroeconomic leve!. and with rhe exception of the Philippines, the dissimilarities are greater than the similarities. Foreign debt-to-GDP ratios for Southeast Asia are often higher than for Latin Amer-ica - Thailand and Indonesia are around co per cent. compared with Mexico's 35 per cent. But Asian countries have kept big foreign exchange reserve cushions — \$28 billion for Thailand

compared with less than \$10 billion for precrists Mexico. And trade plays a much larger part in the Asian economies, so debt is more easily serviced.

Per Capita income in Malaysia, for instance, is roughly similar to that of Mexico: out with a population less than a quarter of Mexico's, it exports the same amount. Currencies in Southeast Asia rand China) have mostly ocen kept deliberately undervalued to stimulate exports — Thai-land, Indonesia, Malaysia as well as China have seen their real effective exchange rates decline in re-

cent years. Current account deficits in Southeast Asia also reflect much higher rates of investment — an average 35 per cent against just over 20 per cent in Mexico and

most of Latin America. They have been financed by a mix of direct private investment, long-and shortterm borrowings and portfolio flows. Mexico was financing its own mostly through that most volatile of all money -- portfolio flows into equities and debt

tries concerned have records of macromanagement which suggest that they can rein in their growth to keep their current deficits at financeable levels, keeping their curren-cies stable. The exceptions are China, which is still largely closed, and totally open Hong Kong, with its formal peg to the U.S. dollar. Pegs have a habit of breaking under pressure. But the only pressure strong enough to break the Hong Kong one is the factor that led to it in the first place: the politics of 1997.

However, though the macro picture remains favourable, some Asian stock markets are as dependent as the Latin ones on foreign portfolio interest: this accounts for about 25 per cent of Bangkok's turnover and new issue subscriptions. 30 per cent of Manila's, 40 per cent of Hong Kong's and more than half of Jakarta's.

So it is unsurprising that Southeast Asia cannot avoid sharp swings in foreign portfolio sentiment. Nor is the matter ended here. If total flows into U.S. equity mutual funds decline, expect further pain in Asian markets. So Mexico is both symptom of a tightening in world liquidity and reason why the past

beneficiaries of easy money may now have to tighten

This could mean highfliers like Thailand and Malaysia having to accept growth levels around 6.5 per cent, not 8.5 per cent. That is hardly disastrous. But it would be a significant change. It also spells trou-ble for the most indebted country in the region. Australia, which is now in as deep a hole as New Zealand was a decade ago and has a heavily traded currency vulnerable to attack.

The other Asian lesson of the crisis is that the United States will have to go to almost any lengths now to help Mexico. This is not just to protect the tens of billions of capital poured into Mexico over the past four years and the rescue package before Congress.

It is to shore up what will remain a keystone of U.S. policy — the North American Free Trade Agreement. (NAFTA) — whoever runs Washington. For the United States, NAFTA is an expression of foreign. domestic and trade policy all in one. It is also the other side of the coin of Mexico's commitment to liberal economic policies and general good neighbourliness on two highly sensitive domestic issues on both sides of the Rio Grande - immigration and employment. The knock-on effect of Mexico's problems on Argentina and Brazil may also stiffen hemispheric cooperation, even if the short-term effect is to slow trade and investment.

International Herald Tri-

Clinton returns to his stumbling ways

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON — Watch-WASHINGTON — Watching U.S. President Bill Clinton's presidency unfold is like watching an old film starring that master of slapstick. Charlie Chaplin — no matter how hard be tries, the end result is almost always a comin dispersor. ways a comic disaster. Take the fumbled nomination of a new

surgeon general.

Just when Mr. Clinton seemed to be making a modest comeback from the Democratic meltdown in last year's elections, his selection of a Tennessee obstetrician-gynocologist to be the nation's top public health official threatens to become a gigantic political liability.

Henry Foster, a highly respected black physician known for trying to curb teen pregnancy, seemed an ideal choice to replace the loose-lipped Joyeelyn Elders, who was ousted as surgeon general late last year because her outspoken views on sex and drugs were damaging Mr. Clinton poli-

tically.

But the White House failed to anticipate and neutralise a question likely to face any physician in an era when abortion is the hottest of hot-button issues: What his practice involved. · That failure has dredged up bad memories of other bungled nominations, and

thrust Mr. Clinton into a no-win situation: Anti-abortion forces are attacking him for the nomination, and pro-choice forces are up in arms about what they regard as Mr. Clinton's waffling in re-

Worse yet, Mr. Foster's differing accounts of how many abortions be has performed is triggering attacks from others who say the real issue is not his record as a doctor, but his credibil-

"It's an inexcusable screwup," said a Democratic political operative close to the White House. "You can't entirely blame Clinton for it. You can't expect him to ask every person about every issue: that's what staff

A White House insider was so anxious to seize the initiative in the national debate over values by launching a campaign to combat an epidemic of teen pregnancy in the United States, it rushed the Foster

"There's no one on staff who would say that we served the president and the nominee as best we could. We should bave done a better job, and we're looking forward and getting everything prepared for what we know will be a hard fight (to confirm Dr. Foster), but we believe will be a very successful and effective fight," White House Spokesman Mike McCurry said.

In an editorial on Friday, the New York Times said: The nomination... has been so badly bungled, by the White House and by Dr. Foster himself, that there is little choice but to

hope it dies quickly..."
The Foster fiasco coincided with Mr. Clinton's futile effort to end the big leagne baseball strike.

Despite his spokesman's warning that the president would take a '40-ounce louisville slugger" baseball bat to the players and owners if they didn't resolve their six month-old labour dispute, Mr. Clinton had no

big stick to wield in the end.
"We have done the best we can," he said after five hours of presidential armtwisting on Tuesday night failed to budge, the stalled baseball negotiations. Mr. Clinton tried to toss the ball to Congress, but Republi-can leaders of the legislative branch said they were not about to become involved.

"Mr. Clinton's performance looked weak by comparison with the standard set by previous presidents like Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan."

Mr. Clinton's performance looked weak by comparison with the standard set by previous presidents like Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Ronald

Truman threatened to use troops to end a post-World War II coal strike, Kennedy stared down steel industry tycoons who were planning what he regarded as an inflationary price hike and Reagan broke up an air traffic controllers' strike by firing strikers who defied his order to return.

"I don't see why Clinton got involved," said a veteran of Jimmy Carter's White House staff. Mr. Carter was as president.

A former member of Mr. Clinton's staff said the ups and downs of Mr. Clinton's first two years in office were not as troublesome as his current woes.

We thought we had all the time in the world to make up for our initial mistakes. But with the 1996 presidential race just around the corner, that make-up time is no longer

there," he said.
Mr. Chinton has said he will seek reelection in 1996. While he bas no inter-party opposition now, political sources said his continuing problems make a Democratic primary challenge almost certain.

LETTERS

A car accident, a nightmare

To the Editor:

HAVING A car accident is upsetting, but it need not turn into a nightmare. Wednesday, I had the misfortune of skidding into the car in front of me in the middle of a snowstorm. Fortunately, no one was injured. However, the police procedures turned into an all-day affair. After going to the police station and starting the paperwork, I was told I had to pay a JD 5 fine. That m itself wasn't a problem. Yet finding a policeman to accept the money was no easy

At the police station, I was instructed to find an officer standing at one of the junctions in Amman to pay the fine. I sought out no less than four officers and not one of them had the magic receipt book. In the end, I was told that the only other option was to go to the Directorate of Traffic in Mahata. I eventually sorted out the matter there.

The obvious question is: Why aren't the necessary receipt books available at police stations throughout the city? Wouldn't it make more sense to pay the officer who writes the report and finish with the matter? With traffic accidents an unfortunate daily occurence, it's time to make procedures easier, not only for drivers, but for the police force which is indeed doing its best to serve the community.

> Amjad Tadros, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and inder special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



returns to ibling way

hours of presidental e hours of presidental e twicing on Tuesday to failed to budge, the sa-baceball negotiation, to

Congress, but Rep.

can leaders of the lenge.

rench said they were

5 become make

"Mr. Clinten;

performance

looked weak h

comparison with

the standard e

by previous pre-

dents like flan

Truman. Joh

Kennedy mi

Ronald Reagan

" Cinton's per-

--- with the stage

At it willed weal by

previous presé

er claim Treman, J

harmand and Ron

Region threatensing

and in the to and a pr

A ... : War II onal gar

North in statel dom:

್ಷ ಬರ್ಗಾಗಿ ಬರುಗಳು ಕಡೆಯಾಗಿ

- - - - ; what he needs

and Resignations a

😑 🚕 🦟 statif. Mr. Canto

271.4(0).70 r Comment ansuppares

" - '-: #'st

. . Democation

er ar was of Mr. Cine

្រាស់ ប្រធានធ្វើជា

- publesome

ा ता ता में भवा

- ... es for our inimie

tieren Riet wich de !

include the community

he said Conton has self

A DE DOS NO INSTE

· - : 2: Said his comme

.... make a Descr

- - centan

. now. pot-

. . . reclection in P

Wie thought weld:

i dien i wer abt Cher

า หรือ เราตอ่อย

ich-lin-

ke-

In an editorial on Fig. ceen so hadly bungled by there is little choice by the dies murch by the in dies murch by the choice BRITAIN WILL come under new pressure within the European Union (EU) later this year as France and there it lime choice by
The Foster flason to
cided with Mr. Cling
there is a control to end the
hasehall strike Spain push for a crucial shift in focus from the countries of eastern Europe to the troubled Muslim na-Despite his spokes, would take a substitute of the programmer of the player and the player of the player of the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of their er month-old is cased to the player of the tions on the southern shores of the Mediterranean — across the "new fault line" that has replaced the old iron curtain. The southern European members of the EU are pressing for the biggest their grammonth-old to clispete. Mr. Climbally. change in priorities since the collapse of Eastern Europe in 1989 and for a of a stick to wield in the We have done the comment of the control of the cont

mous political and financial commitment since made to the new governments in the war raging in Algeria and the threat of hostile Islamic regimes taking over along the whole coast of North Africa, they are urging the union to act before it is too

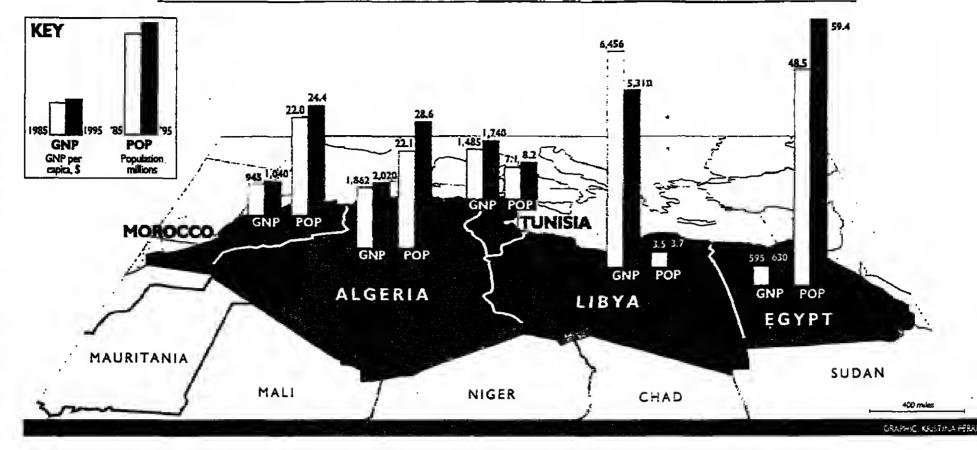
reexamination of the enor-

There is a kind of paranoia around which can give rise to fatalistic pessimism, says the Spanish Foreign Minister, Javier Solana. "Look at the disparity in incomes between north and south, combine that with population growth and you have the ingredients for the conflict between Islam and Europe that has made up so

much of the unhappy his-tory of the Mediterranean." The French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, also argued strongly for a change in priorities at re-cent meetings with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. France has been traumatised by the Algerian conflict, which has cost 30,000 lives. The French government, apparently powerless to influence events in a country it ruled for 132 years, is now seeking to "Europeanise" the problem. France and Spain are powerfully placed to influence policy because Paris bolds the presidency of the EU for the first half of this year and Madrid takes over the second half. Mr. Solana was speaking at a conference in Barcelona last weekend which was clearly seen by the Spanish government as an opportunity to set ont the Mediterranean agenda and to prepare the ground for a

Europe must look south, not east

The greatest challenge facing the EU lies not in Eastern Europe but in the rise of fundamentalism in the Maghreb, argues Michael Sheridan



in the city in the autumn. But there is a simple flaw within the European Un-ion's strategy. It focuses on the hopeful notion that economic improvement can resolve political unrest. Yet the true reason for upheaval in the Muslim World is a crisis of legitimacy in the political systems installed at independence. Most are seenlar dictatorships or monarchies rejected as beretical and invalid by "Islamists" - Muslims who see in their religion the only valid blneprint for govern-

Nowhere has this revolutionary change in popular psychology proved more dramatic than in Algeria. Once held up as a model of Third World independence and not-alignment, Algeria today provides a nightmare that has skaken the entire north African establishment and thrust itself into the beart of French domestic politics. Under assault from an armed fundamentalist uprising, the security forces have fought hack with a terrifying dis-play of brutality and the draconian suspension of civil liberties. Unable either to enter a compromise dialogue or to win an outright confrontation, both the hardline military-backed government and its fananical Islamist foes are locked

in a stalemate.

Although Algeria's vital output of oil and natural gas appears undamaged so far, its society is set on a downward spiral towards fragmentation and bloody chaos. Two critical effects could flow from the hreakdown of order in Algiers: the installation of a hostile, extreme Islamic regime and the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Algeria's secular, French-speaking middle class, as they become the boat people of southern Europe. The big question for the foreign ministries of France, Spain and Italy is

whose fall sets off a collapse throughout the region?

The Islamic movements certainly hope so. And while Europeans bicker and argue over budgets, priorities and contingency plans, the inexorable forces of change are sweeping across the region. In the western Arah states, known as the Maghreb ("the lands on which the sun sets"), the principal problem is the rapid growth in population which outstrips economic growth. The result is poverty and corruption, together increasing popular anger at the lack of legitimacy inherent in authoritarian govemmens. In the eastern Arah nations of the Mediterranean, the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict remains cause and catalyst

of political upbeaval. The common factor in both cases is the upsurge of religious zeal as the Islamists - often young people, city dwellers and the disenfranchised poor — seek a

new way of life to replace the outworn dogmas of Arah nationalism and state socialism. They rejected western cultural values and rejoice in the confrontation with Ziooism, regarded by militant Muslims as a form

of imperialist invasion. If the Algerian domino falls, what of its neighbours? Morocco, remains stable under the long rule of Kiog Hassan whose rule is supported by the merchant class and clergy. But illiteracy and high unemployment have not been cured by Morocco's economic de-

Fundamentalists have not made much progress in Morocco but they have mounted a determined campaign in Tunisia, where women were emancipated a generation ago and economie reform is bearing fruit. Tunisia's secular elite has chosen to repress militant Islam and to try to ride out the storm. Cosmopolitan and well-entrenched, it has

naturally adapted to trade with the EU. Tunisia needs closer ties with Europe and would benefit from the judicious use of develop-ment aid. But a triumph for Islamis: guerrillas in Alger-ia would renew the battle by Tunisia's fundamentalist exiles — some of them based in London — against the regime of President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali.

The bridge between the Maghreh states and the Middle East is formed by Libya, for which the EU possesses no known strategy. Bombed by the United States in 1986 in retaliation for its involvement in "state terrorism," Libya has receded into the silence of the pariah. Its comparatively small population languishes Colonel Muammar Qadhafi and the country is under U.N. embargo because it refuses to extradite two in-

Pan Am flight 103. After Algeria, Colonel Qadhafi's neighbour, Egypt, poses the next hig question for policymakers in Europe. The government of President Hosni Muharak is waging a war against fundamentalists second only in brutality to the hattie in Algiers. Egypt's rapidly growing population and economic underdevelopment parallel Algeria, while the regime's iron fisted response to violence is destined only to create new martyrs and intensify the zeal of its foes. Most Enropean countries continue to support Egypt but

The faltering Middle East peace negonations and the recent wave of martyrdom" suicide bombings bave spurred on the Islamie opponents to Yasser Arafat and pushed Israeli public opinion away from any

have quietly placed its gov-ernment on the "at risk"

bound to have an effect on the ideological and religious hattles from Suez to Casab-

It is bard to see what influence Europeans can exercise over such a profound and irreconcilable contest. The European Commission wants to support economic modernisanon in countries that agree to open their markets. It believes that Brussels should also help structural adjustment in countries that cannot yet afford to take the risks involved in free trade. It wants to "strengthen north-south economic and financial cooperation' and to support the Middle

East peace process.

But Britain and Germany, net contributors to the EU coffers, are certain to oppose any plans that dramatically increase spending in the south and do not want to see new insututions created. "We don't believe that money alone can solve these problems," is the instinctive reaction of Douglas Hurd,

If money cannot, then what can? Perhaps, argue some, the Europeans should stand back, await the inevitable sea-change on the southern shores and then deal realistically with the Islamic governments which emerge. To the wes-ternised middle classes in the countries of North Africa, that is but a counsel of

It is clear, whatever the choice, that the European Union cannot escape involvement. A violent collapse could well have ensued in Algeria by the time presidents and prime minisiers assemble for a Mediterranean summit in Barcelona next autumn.

By then the agenda may not focus on economics but on military intervention perhaps to safeguard expatriates or protect vital petrochemical installations. The one certainty is best expressed by Andre Azoulay, a senior adviser to King Hassan of Morocco. who urges western Europe to examine its interests without delay. "We don't have the time," says Mr. Azoulay, "and you don't have the time either."

The Independent

Meeting seeks to end impasse

(Continued from page 1) adopted a positive position and respected its commitments and cannot accept responsibility for the terrorist operations which have happened recently," Dr. Baz

grandiose regional summit

"Such acts of violence were taking place before the Palestinian Anthority took charge when the Israeli authorities were running the occupied territories," he said.

The PLO will present a list of demands to help save the stalled peace process at the meeting in Washington, Palestinian officials said.

"We hope tomorrow to stress that the key to peace in the region is the Palestinian said senior negotiator Saeh Erakat after the weekly meeting of the Palesnnian self-rule authority in Gaza on

Saturday.
"A failure in the Palestinian track will mean failure in all," said Mr. Erakat, who is also minister of local govern-ment in the self-rule au-

thority. He and other officials told reporters the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks will present a memorandum with demands to seek an end to the stalemate with

Israel on extending self-rule. While they would not disclose the demands, the officials said they would address sticking points including an Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank, the closure of the West Bank and Gaza, Jewish settlements and elections to a Palestinian auton-

omy council. Meanwhile, despite the return of Syria's ambassador to-Washington, peace talks with Israel remain suspended. And an Egyptian drive to force Israel to open its faciliries to nuclear inspectors could mar the Sunday

Ambassador Walid Al Mouallem returned this week from Damascus after a lengthy absence but has not rescheduled talks suspended last December with Israel's ambassador, Itamar Rabino-

Their quiet meetings in Washington were the only active contacts between Syria and Israel, sparring for more than three years over peace terms and the future of the strategic Golan Heights.

Syria also has excluded itself from Sunday's meening. Syria on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Mr. Rabin and said Damascus would not put up with the same treatment as the Palestinians at the hands of the Jewish state.

The official daily Al Thawra blasted Mr. Rabin's "behaviour in peace negotianons, especially on the Palesnnian track, and his mentality of wanting everything: peace, land and securwithout giving anything in exchange.

What is happening on the Palestinian track will not be repeated elsewhere," the paper said, adding that it was 'impossible" to consider any compromise on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan

Efforts to draft a communique for the Washington meeting were complicated by Egypt's drive to force Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and diplomats may be unable to reach agreement on a strong andterrorism provision.

Egypt is asking for concessions by Israel on the nuclear issue in exchange, according to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity. They hope to reconcile the differences by Sunday.
Meanwhile, U.S. arms

control director John D. Holum and other senior administration officials hope Israel can be persuaded to agree to a worldwide han on production of fissile material. and that Egypt will accept that as a significant first step toward broader nuclear con-

trols. But Egypt this week lined up seven other Arab countries to back its demands and may not vote to approve indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty when the issue comes up at a 170-nation conference in New York in April.

Deal with PLO not sacred

(Continued from page 1)

ters said they intended to focus Sunday's Washington talks on their stepped up demands to implement the next stage of the autonomy agreement

will Algeria be the domino

"I think the peace process is facing serious danger." said Dr. Frakat. "Either Israel makes peace

by implementing the agreement... or Israel says it doesn't want peace and then we are facing a serious collapse of the peace process," Ministers said the cabinet

drew up a memorandum of its demands in Saturday's meeting which will be presented at the Washington gathering.
"If this meeting tomorrow does not respond positively

to Palestinian concerns, it will be a useless and unnecessary meening and it will wreak havoc on the entire peace process," said PNA Economics Minister Ahmad Qouriea.

Nabil Shaath, a top Palestinian negotiator and a senior member of the self-rule government in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, left Friday night for

led it "an attempt to bury

In 1993, apparently in an

union freedoms alive."

Turkey reopen

(Continued from page 1)

the region). I discussed the

subject with the Iraqi foreign

minister. The minister and

his delegation discussed the

matter with the president and

prime minister. I believe the

He also said that in the

near future talks would be

held on "the new roles the

Turkish private sector could

play in Iraq." and on bilateral

talks have been very useful,

Mr. Karavalcin said.

security issues.

Egyptian unions stage protest

(Continued from page 12)

on Friday asking members of attempt to reduce the Islam-

parliament to vote against the ist influence the associations.

amendment. The doctors cal- parliament passed a law

bers voted.

Washington with Justice Minister Freih Ahu Medin.

PLO representatives in the United States and the United Nations will also participate in the talks. The Palestinians have grown increasingly frustrated

ders, keeping Palestinian labourers from reaching their places of employ in Israel. Israel also halted transport of gasoline to Gaza after a security guard escorting an Israeli tanker was killed in the Gaza Strip last week. Gas stations ran empty on

by the closure of Israel's bor-

Saturday and had to turn cars Mr. Qouriea said that if the gas shortage was not resolved. Gaza would have to turn to Egypt and Jordan for their supply. He repeated the Palestinian demand that israel ease the customs restrictions on the self-rule

area's international borders. "If the Israelis want to close the West Bank and Gaza and maintain the closure they can do this. But they must open the borders with Jordan and Egypt." he said.

In Damascus, two Palesti-

annulling union elections if

less than 50 per cent of mem-

Jordan's envoy

(Continued from page 1)

Farouk Al Sharaa delegated

Mutie Nasser, the Syrian

charge d'affaires in Amman.

Born in Karak in 1938.

Adaileh obtained a bachelor

degree in commerce and

worked for the diplomanic

service since 1968 serving in a

number of Arab countries.

Adaileh, who has been

amhassador to Syria since

November 1993, is survived

by a wife and four sons.

to attend the funeral.

nian factions blasted Sunday's meeting in Washington as a bid to extract more concessions from the Arabs.

"The meeting of the fore-ign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, the United States, Israel and a representative from the Palestinian self-rule authority, was called for by Washington to provide more achievements for Israel." said a joint statement by the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine.

It accused the United States of supporting Israel's policies and working to keep Israel militarily superior to the Arabs.

"The United States wants to keep Israel's military edge over the Arabs and reject all sorts of pressure on Israei concerning its nuclear armaments." The statement added.

It also accused Israel of attempts to turn the PNA into a "tool of suppression" to eliminate the Palestinian uprising and resistance against the Jewish state.

Libya, building on deadlock in the Middle East peace process. on Saturday slammed Mr. Arafat, saving the United States and Israel had let him down and left him isolated.

"He (Arafat) hecame only a mayor, rather, less than that," the Libvan (Pan-Arah) Unity Ministry said in a statement carried by the official news agency JANA.

telligence agents wanted in

Scotland for the bombing of

Libva reiterated that the only solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a "democratic Palestine" with Jews from Russia, Europe and Arah states returning

"The submission to the Israeli will.. has demonstrated the fragility of agree-ments signed with them. Here is Yasser Arafat who signed a number of accords with the Israelis becoming isolated from the Palestinian people after the Israelis and Americans let him down,

the Libyan statement said. "He became the mayor of a municipality, rather, less than that," it added.

"We reaffirm what we have already proposed, that an objective solution able to assure cohabitation between Arabs and Palestinian Jews is the establishment of their democratic state as in South Africa, and the return home of Palestinians, and the return to their countries of Jews who emigrated from Russia, Europe and Arab countries,

Algerian group warns of violence (Continued from page 12)

French television stations showed crates being loaded into two Algerian cargo planes at Marseille airport on Friday night and said they were the first two of nine Franco-German Ecureuil helicopters that France agreed to sell last year.

The French defence ministry declined comment. The FIS has said it fears the helicopters will be used against them and had urged France to block deliveries. Foreign Minister Alain

Juppe confirmed the olanned sale to Algeria last November and said the government had refused a tequest to convert them for military use. He has said that France does not give any significant military aid 10

Militants killed four civilians, including a local mayor, in the east Algerian region of Mila, the Algerian newspaper Le Matin said on Saturday.

The newspaper, citing a message of condolences from the regional governor, said one of those killed in the "horrible criminal act," was Abdul Hamid Koune, appointed mayor of Sidi Khelif after the authorities dissolved local authorities controlled by the FIS.

Le Matin did not say when the four were killed or give details about the other three victims.

Western intelligence source say between 600 and 800 people are being killed each month in the conflict.

further compromise. That is Rivals say N. Irish peace must open prison gates

By Martin Cowley Reuter

BELFAST - In Northern Ireland's Republican strongholds, where the Irish Republican Army (IRA; plotted a 25-year war against British rule, every child knows the meaning of "saoirse", an ancient Irish Clarion call for "freedom".

Along the narrow ter-races of loyalist neighbourhoods emblazoned with garish pro-British murals, Protestants care nothing for Irish catchwords. They use different words but the demand is the same - "the boys" must he released

On Friday, the Irish governmenr announced it would grant early release to five IRA prisoners in response to the ending of hosplines in Northern Ireland. It freed nine others at

But so far Britain shows no sign of following suit. It fought a gruelling war for a quarter of a century, losing almost 1,000 troops and police, mainly in IRA bomb and bullet ambushes.

There are some 600 Republican prisoners, mostly lrish Republican Army 'volunteers", and about 400 loyalist extremists. members of the Ulster Volunteer Force or Ulster Freedom Fighters.

London says no "political prisoners" are housed in Northern Ireland's prisons, and that all inmates will serve out their terms. Republicans see this attitude as a major block on the road to a lasting peace in the province.

Protestant political activist William Smith, speaking in his office in Belfast's Shankill road loyalist heartland, said he was also disappointed that Britain hasn't started freedom moves, following ceasefires by the rival forces last autumn.

"As far as I'm concerned, the war is over, and the legacy of that war is the prisoners. We have to remove that legacy as quickly as possible as a practical step on the road to permanent peace, said Mr. Smith of the tiny Progressive Unionist Party.

At a saoirse group rally in Belfast Catholic area, Mairead Ui Adhmaill geis a rousing cheer from relatives of IRA inmates when she says she looks forward to purting a big notice on the (Republican) prisoner-ofwar department, saving "closed permanently."

Her husband was recently sentenced to 25 years for plotting explosions in England. Speaking of the need to heal divisions she said prisoner releases were part of that process.

The guns fell silent in Northern Ireland's war last September when the Irish Republican Army said it was ending its armed struggle. Loyalisis fighting to keep the province British called off their violence six weeks later.

Opponents of an opengates policy warn against being dewy-eyed about the prisoners and are adamant that their dead or maimed victims and their families must not be forgotten.

The guerrillas' friends in sprawling housing estates or small scattered farmsteads across the countryside say most would not be behind

hars in a normal society. They reject British politicians' portrayals of 'mindless killers and thugs". pleading their crimes were

politically motivated للسمعطوات فالروفعمي كرفات فالميس المتيال الأدراس

· accident,

ghtmare

but it need not if raisforms, the middle it. However to io find an office of find an outin to pay the first
not one of the
it was told that
clorate of Traffic marter there. marier mere areas the news area the news throughout areas throughout the officer of the news throughout the new throughout the n he matter? With use to see he for the post

out to make Anjad Tadis ANTISO. Contributions for the contributions for the contributions for the contributions for the contributions of the contr

Contributions Leave

Yemen fails to adopt World Bank reforms amid fear of unrest

vided over harsh economic reforms called for by the World Bank amid fears they could trigger unrest, a government source said Friday.

A three-day cabinet meeting ended in a split in the two-party coalition this week over the measures to cut inflation and plug the budget deficit in one of the world's poorest countries, a member of the Islamic party Al Islah told AFP.

They include more than doubling the price of petrol from six riyals (seven cents) a litre to 15 rivals (17 cents) and an end to government subsidies on staple foods such as flour, bread, oil and sugar

Kuwaiti petrol prices may rise up to 40%

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) -Petrol prices here could rise by np to 40 per cent amid plans to end subsidies on oil. water and electricity, a senior government official was

quoted as saying Saturday. He told the Arab Times daily that the government in the oil-rich emirate was considering a proposal to hike gas prices, between 35 to 40 per cent as part of wide-

ranging economic reforms.
The increase would bring prices to between 68 to 90 fils a litra (22 to 30 cents) but no date has been set for their introduction, he added.

The series of measures which include plans to increase customs duties are annoug reforms called for by Vorld Bank to restore the country's economy hit by the given month fragi

to February 1991. The World Bank's latest report on Kuwait urged the givenament to adopt econo-nic reforms to slash the budger deficit.

l: recommended cutting welfare state subsidies and maximising government savings to help diversify and strengthen its oil-based eco-

World Bank official Nicholas Carter announced in January the emirate would undertake a series of economic reforms in the "coming

The Kuwaiti finance ministry announced last week that the government intends to si: the estimated deficit in its 1.75/1996 budget by more than a third, or about \$1.6 billion, and plans to wipe out

the shortfall by 2000. Meanwhile the governor of the central bank, Sheikh Salem Ibn Abdul Al Sabah announced Saturday that the treasury had received more than \$5 billion in reimbursements.

I THINK THERE'S

SHOULD KNOW.

SOMETHING YOU (THAT ?

WHAT'S

Peanuts

that cost the government ab-A World Bank delegation has visited Yemen to press home the need for free-market economic reforms and the

development of the private

Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani proposed the package but it was rejected by the eight ministers from Al Islab, which is in coalition with the General People's Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Al Islab fears the measures could lead to unrest, the party member said, asking to remain anonymous. The daily Ash Sahwa, the

government could have disastrous consequences for the population and block the country's economic activity."

Yemen's struggling economy was badly hit by the May-July civil war which cost the country \$1t billion, according to Sanaa's esti-

A special commission was created in November to draw up the 1995 budget, but vast differences over public spending have left it in sus-

The government last adopted a formal budget in 1992, and since then has cobbled together figures based on previous spending and in-

Experts have predicted that the 1995 budget deficit will reach 62 billion rivals (\$740 million on the black market, or \$5 billion at the official rate).

There is also disagreement

on measures to fight corruption that have been denounced by a coalition of the 13 opposition parties. A decision Wednesday to arrest 200 traders and money-

changers for "fraud and trafficking" was not carried out. Deputy Supply Minister Abdul Mejid Al Mekblafi, a

member of Al Islah, told AFP the "problem was much more complex" than just arresting 200 people

U.N. sees fast growth for world engineering industry

tions analysts have predicted fast growth for world engineering industries over the next few years, with the United States leading the climb out of recession.

But in a detailed report on the global state of the sector. they said the upswing would come through increased productivity and was unlikely to have any major impact on unemployment, particularly western Europe.

"After passing through the worst recession in the postwar period, world engineering industries are now on the track for a buoyant recovery," said the report from the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Profits of the world's major engineering firms, with the

panies, have been soaring since the trough of 1992-1993, according to the report.

Investment goods sectors. and especially general and machine tools which were the worst hit during the early 1990s and saw production drops in key countries of up to 51 per cent, are leading the

The report, World Engineering Industries and Automation: Performance and Prospects 1993-1995," said the huge declines in the recession years — especially in Japan and Germany -had created huge unemployment problems. Across the globe. companies were hit by large losses, often leading to bankruptcy and staff layoffs mainly affecting highly-skilled em- Europe."

But now the bleak picture had radically changed. Investment goods industries in many countries were running close to capacity which would lead to further investment. according to the ECE

Booming economies in north and south America and south-east Asia and a robust recovery in western Europe and several eastern European countries "make the shortand medium-term prospects for the engineering industries look bright," they said.

However, the report warned, "the recovery will only have marginal effects on the rate of unemployment, at least as concerns western

Russian upper house votes to triple wages in defiance of IMF

MOSCOW (AFP) - The upper house of the Russian pariament voted for a near tripling of the minimum wage Friday in an act of defiance towards the IMF which President Boris Yeltsin is expected

The proposal to increase the minimum monthly wage from 20,500 rubles to 54,100 roubles (from \$5 to \$13) is seen as a major obstacle to the granting of a vital standloan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The decision, if applied, might add \$750 million a month to public expenditure. making a mockery of the budget deficit target which is already viewed with scepticism by the IMF.

The 1MF said Tuesday that it was withholding a stand-by loan of \$6.45 billion, which has already been written into the draft budget for 1995. because it had not received satisfactory undertakings about economic reform and containment of the deficit. "If this law comes into effect, the negotiations with the IMF will no longer make any sense, and nor would the pursuit of economic reforms,

because this text would result. in the total collapse of the budget for 1995," the main economic adviser to the president, Alexandre Livchits, warned at the beginning of the week. 'Whatever happens the

president will veto this stupidity," First Vice Premier Anatoly Chnbais said outside parliament a few days ago. The First Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov said Friday that "the president will probably use his veto" and commented that the vote by the Federation Council was "populist" and showed a

"lack of professionalism." Mr. Yeltsin is still able to veto the law which might cost more than three trillion

month, of which one-third would fall on the government and two-thirds on local authorities, according to estimates by the Russian govern-

Such an increase in expenditure would destroy the government's target of containing the budget deficit to 7.8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

minimum age is not the only obstacle to the granting of the loan. The IMF is pressing for liberalisation of oil exports and for some changes in revenue and expenditure plans under the draft budget.

But it is considered to be a key pointer for experts from the IMF who are expected to return here at the end of February in another attempt to conclude a loan agreement. A first round of talks ended Monday.

Oman boosts industrial growth

MUSCAT (AFP) — The Arab Gulf state of Oman has registered an annual industrial growth rate of 15 per cent over the last four years in its drive to diversify its oil-reliant economy, officials said

Wednesday.
Maqbul Ibn Ali Ibn Sultan, trade and industry minister, said industrial growth was three per cent ahead of forecasts in Oman's five-year plan for 1991 to 1995.

Official figures show that industry contributed 4.3 per cent to Oman's gross domes-tic product (GDP) in 1993, compared with 3.8 per cent in 1990 and 0.3 per cent in 1980. Non-oil industry ontput

climbed above 190 million riyals (\$494 million) in 1993 from 120 million riyals (\$312 million) in 1989.

Meanwhile, the sultanate's industrial exports rose to 135 million riyals (\$351 million) in 1993 from 90 million riyals

(\$234 million) in 1989. Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has launched the most far-reaching programme of economic reforms of all Gulf

Britain's rich-poor gap widest in 50 years — study

LONDON (AFP) - The gap between Britain's rich and poor is the widest in a halfcentury, according to a blueribbon study released Friday amid a furor over buge salaries paid to executives of recently privatised utilities.

The results of the most intensive such study in two decades showed income disparity had grown wider and faster in Britain in recent years than in any other industrialised nation with the exception of New Zealand.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's year-long Study of Income and Wealth showed million of British families straddling the poverty line, disenfranchised from any stake in future prosper-

ity.
The heads of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Trade Union Council (TUC) warned that lasting benefits could accrue only through tax cuts targetted specifically at the lowest

income groups.
"Failure to reintegrate this excluded minority into the mainstream of society will leave the well-to-do majority with a heavy price to pay in terms of increased public spending, wasted economic resources and social disloca-

The standard of living for the poor that prevails in many parts of Britain is "simply unacceptably low in a society as rich as ours," said

the report. Peter Barclay, chairman of the study and former head of the government's, Social Security advisory Committee, described the widening come nift as the "gravesi public concern."

The study was released as unions and other employee organisations issued almost daily executive officers (CEOs) of recently privatised public utilities.

At a time when teachers, doctors, and civil servants were getting average pay hikes of 2.5 per cent, British Gas CEO Cedric Brown, for example, saw his salary raised 75 per cent to £475,000 (\$800,000).

Other utility CEOs got commensurately high in-

British Telecom CEO Lain Vallance infuriated the medical profession when, defending his £630,000 (\$1 million) salary, he said he would find it "relaxing" to do the work of a junior doctors.

Controversy has also erupted over the granting of millions of pounds worth of share options to top execu-

tised power generating firms. The Rowntree study is highly critical of the so-called "trickle-down" principle of wealth, saying essentially that when the rich grow richer, virtually none of the new

pockets of the poor. In contrast to any other period since World War II, it says, as much as the lowest 30 per cent of earners bave failed to derive any benefit from national economic

wealth finds its way into the

"Everyone knows the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer," said TUC General Secretary John Monks. "It cannot be allowed to continue.' He said more training and

education was the key to "helping employees get fairer rewards and enabling those with no jobs stand a better chance of getting out of unemployment."

CBI Director-General Howard Davies called for a "strategy which goes with the grain of those global

"At present, far too much of our public spending is devoted to compensating for the effects of failure, rather than investing in the ingre-

IMF urges defence against new Mexico-style crisis

PARIS (R) - The managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called for longer-term remedies to guard against a host of Mexico-style econo-mic crises which could be

waiting tu erupt. Michel Camdessus, speaking at a news conference, said early-warning signals would have to be improved and made it clear that the IMF may need more resources to fulfill its role as a backstop for countries rocked by financial problems.

"It is now necessary... to come up with a joint and in-depth analysis of what happened, and what it is that demanded such heavy intervention, so that longerterm remedies... are found for situations like this, which could indeed happen again.

Mr. Camdessus said. "Don't expect me to give you the list, in order, of the 10 similar cases which could crop up in the next 10 months." he added.

The IMF last week agreed a \$17.8 billion loan fur Mexico to help the country weather its severe cash crisis and holster the world financial system. The standby loan was one of the cornerstones of the nearly \$50 billion assistance programme for Mexico unveiled by U.S. President Bill

Repeating comments he made in Washington last week, the IMF chief said the Mexican crisis may be just the first of a new style of crisis caused by the effect of fast-reacting globalised mar-kets on economies with no exchange controls.

"We were confronted there with a major crisis. I believe it is the first crisis of the world ahead of us." he said. "It was not a crisis of the 20th century, but a crisis of the 21st century. He said the international

community should not come

to hasty conclusions on how

to react to the new economic order. Surveillance needed to be kept up. As for the intern community's capacity for response to crises. Mr. Camdessus warned that the IMF

would ask its member coun tries for more cash. For now the fund has sufficient liquidity to finance its day-to-day lending business and has a small margin of manoeuvre to act outside

those bounds. The problem with ahundant liquidity is that dis-appears rapidly. Mr. Camdessus said.

Nigeria has 8.5m jobless

LAGOS (AFP) — About 8.5 million Nigerian of working age are either jobless or under-employed, according to official unemployment statistics. This figure represents close to 10 per cent of the natioo's population, officially put at 88.5 million. Most of those affected are unemployable since they lack either specific skills or academic qualifica-tions, an official of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), said in an interview.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) It is important today that you exercise the greatest care in doing favours for partners, whether in business or personal life, be it concerning monetary or creative

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A bad day for gambling on anything or taking chances. Any civic or public affair needs to be handled very carefully, too; so that you do not ink higher ups.

GEMINI: (May 21 to Jane 21) Get your tasks done quickly during the morning and then be kind to those who are helping you. However, don't use and air of bravado or do anything to initate your

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are now able to make better plans for recreation during weekends or during any spare time that you have and get those hobbies perfected. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for data that will assist you to get

along better with associates and friends in the future. Go shopping this afternoon after you have studied your local paper for bargains. VIRGO: (Angust 22 to September 22) Don't neglect to buy staples needed this day and be sure you drop in on a relative who loved you. Be gentle with all, not critical.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Surroundings or real estate the you own require attention today and repairs that you would be wise to handle you.self. Be very kind with a loved one tonight, but

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Getting health and appearance improved is of prime importance to you today, so spare no time or expense in doing so. Then go after your most cherished desires this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be on guard tonight that you don't get into trouble with one who has powers over your affairs and well-being.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are fortunate in having a good pal help you with whatever tasks you have on hand today that are too difficult to do alone so make sure you do this work

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be alert to credit affairs as well as to civic duties during the daytime. It is important that you prove you are a good citizen now for those who are taking a good look at you.

meeting interesting people, getting close to nature, partaking in sports, etc. Stick to what is of proven worth in the evening.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much activity is fine now. Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx THE Daily Crossword by William Cambrid





Andy Capp

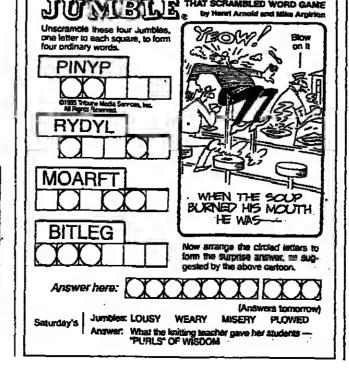


Mutt'n'Jeff





"I worked at this restaurant in college. It was so fancy even the cockroaches used three different forks!"





usiness aily eat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Trading in 'burned goods' generates 200% profit

The first part of this story was published Saturday, Feb. 11, 1995

Saleh Al Sallal, a merchant who buys and sells "burned products", affirms that trading in this line is better than importing. He claims the importing business would generate between 10 to 20 per cent profit but trading in "burned products" can bring a 200 per cent if it is bought in cash and sold in instalments.

He adds that "burned products" are no longer electrical ones but has also become carpets and bedrooms. Salim Al Dabouqi says he

is an importer and does not deal in "al souq al mahrouq" although he is suffering from it. He explains that he imported television sets which cost him JD 320 each but he cannot sell them although he might get rid of them at a loss so as not to keep the products in the shop.
Mr. Dabouqi says if each

factory or importer restricts sales to honest traders who pay the price in cash there will no longer be a "burned

Ghazi Dheeh, owner of Sob Laban Establishment, says the "burned market" can be stopped if the manufacturers and importers stop flooding the market with large quantities of goods. He explains that if a trader has the capabilities to sell five products and he gets 50 he will be forced to "burn the products" to pay his obliga-

Mr. Dheeb points out that the merchants are aware of the true price of electrical but the ordinary people are demanding the "hurned price" and, as such, all consumers are going to the "burned market.

He adds that people are selling "hurned products" whether at the city centre, at the suburbs and even at vil-

Fayez Al Buraie says that 75 per cent of the market in Jordan is a "burned market" and that he buys and sells hurned products" like ev-

erybody else. Saeed Al Qaisi accuses employees of being involved in this type of Irade.

He gave the example of the gas heaters which some companies sold to government employees in installments. Although an employee was in need of one heater, he bought four in installments and sold three of them at a "hurned prices" to raise cash.

Mr. Al Qaisi stressed that "Al Souq Al Mahrouq" is causing great damage to the traders. It has become like a bourse with prices moving up or down within hours and sometimes within minutes, he

Mahmoud Al Ahbadi from Salt explains yet another track being followed by traders. He says:

Let us suppose that a merchant buys goods worth JD 50,000 from a supplier and another JD 50,000 worth of goods from a second supplier and goods worth JD 100,000 from a third source. "Burning" these goods at half the cost price would generate JD 100,000 of cash which the merchant can take to banks and shop there for credits in exchange for the casb he pre-sents as a deposit or security (against facilities). And, more goods keep flooding the maket (Al Dustour).

ಸ್ತಿಸ An anouncement by the Aqaba Regional Authority invites investors to apply for various opportunities available in the southern share area of Aqaba. Investment opportunities icelude setting up hotels, spas and touristie villages, restaurants, swimning pools, play grounds, golf course, sports areas, diving clubs, yacht clubs, camping sites, amausement cities, zoos and any other touristic. sportif or amusement ventures (Al Ra'i).

Pakistan woos investment in electronics, refining palm oil

Pakistan, which imports ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The 1.6 million tonnes of palm Pakistan government has unoil, could save \$50 per tonne veiled a package of tax conif it had refining ability. Mr. cessions and other incentives Khan said, adding that local cultivation of plam oil trees 10 attract domestic and foreign investment to launch the would also be promoted. electronics, chemicals and Outlining the concessions. the B.I. official said import palm oil industries in the country.

country.
B.I. Secretary Mohibullah

Khan told reporters that investors undertaking palm oil

refining projects- would get total exemption from sales

tax on curd palm oil imports.

which mainly come from

COMPANY'S MAKE

ARAB BARK PIC JURDAN SATIONAL BANK JURDAN SATIONAL BANK / NEW SIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT SANK INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN

ISSORABCE SECTOR

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / HEN
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS
JORDAN MATIONAL SRIPPING LINES
HATIONAL PORTPOLIO SECURITIES
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODER HOTELS
ARAB INTERNATIONAL PORTPORTORIO

ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION

ARRVICES SECTOR

THE JOHDAN WORSTED MILLS'
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

RAFIA INDUSTRIES
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT
ARAB ENVESTMENT & INDUSTRIES
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIE
LIVESTOCK & FOULTKY
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
JORDAR ROCKHOOL INDUSTRIES
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES & HATCH/JINCO
MATICMAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING
ANAB CRETER FOR PRARM. & CHEMICALS
KANTHER INVESTMENT

KANTEER INVESTMENT USIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES JOHNAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

INQUATAIAL SECTOR

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARATTES THE JORDAN CHERT FACTORIES THE ARAS POTASE/NEW JORDAN PETROLECH REFURARY

JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES SPINNING & WEAVING RAFIA INDUSTRIES

PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BARK.

JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE

THE BOUSING BANK
JORDAN KUMAIT BANK
JORDAN GULF BANK
JORDAN ISLANIC BANK
BEIT BLANL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR BOUSING
AMDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT

duty on components used in The country's Board of Investment (B.I.), headed by electronics software and hardware had been reduced Prime Minister Benazir Bhutfrom 70 per cent to 10 and to, also invited foreign com-15 per cent. panies to invest in 12 special No income tax will be industrial zones set up in the

levied on profits earned from the export of electronic goods. Commercial banks and state-run financial institutions will extend soft loans and a special cell will he set up at the Export Promotion Bureau to facilitate export of electronic goods.

AMPIAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BANK CREEK ANGAK - SEMEISANI TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 CRGANIED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR BATURDAY 11/02/1995

43295

100

100

45383

120196

Date: 11/2/1995

330675

335

335

113990

798129

Abu Dhabi building sector seen buoyant in '95

ABU DHABI (R) — Commercial building activity in Abu Dhabi will stay buoyant in 1995 despite a fairly cheerless outlook for Arab Gulf economies as a whole, an economic official has said.

"I don't expect a lot of change from last year. Replacement of old buildings will continue," said Humaid Bin Karam, undersecretary at Abu Dhabi's Economic

Depaπment. Rents may stabilise but only towards the end of the year. Flat prices are still high." he told Reuters in an

A construction boom continued through 1994 in Ahu Dhahi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and in the neighbouring emirate of Duhai despite weak oil prices, the Arah Gulf state's

main export. Some analysts do not ex-

CLOSING PRICE

184.500 185.000
4.150 4.360
4.100 4.140
1.440 1.420
3.650 2.650
5.950 6.000
3.950 2.990
1.370 3.770
3.050 3.100
1.290 1.300
4.150 4.000
1.400 1.430

INDEX NUMBER: 158.09

3.390 2.350

1.460

2.110

363230 INDEX BUNDER: 123.58 CHARGE : +0.964

TROEK FORBER: 141.79 CHARGE : +0.795

135.94 +0.28

1.490 -1.410 4.750 3.250 3.160 11.650

33.780 2.960 5.000 9.500 7.550 4.370

S.800 2.750 2.750 3.000 .950 6.800 .760 2.400 1.410 4.250 4.000 1.750 4.010 1.980

PREV. CLOSING PRICE

pect oil prices to improve much in 1995 but oew commercial buildings, which get soft government loans in Abu Dhabi, are still rising in large numbers.

The government is trying to cut down spending, but spending on essential items is not going to change," said Mr. Karam, adding: "Offsets will also bring people here."

Foreign arms makers who win UAE defence contracts are obliged to reinvest part of a deal's value in joint venture offset projects with local The soft loans for building

projects are intended to help spread oil income through the economy. Construction work also generates husiness for materials suppliers, banks

and insurers: Estate agents in Duhai, a regional trading hub and one

of the seven UAE states, say commercial rents there fell more than 10 per cent at the end of 1994 in a saturated market, but this may be a short-term correction in an upward trend.

More than 40 per cent of the UAE's two million people live in Ahu Dhahi, by far the richest of the seven emirates. It pumps about 85 per cent of the UAE's daily oil production of 2.161 million

The construction industry in Abu Dhabi is supported by a need to replace buildings put up in a hurry during the oil boom of the 1970s and worn out by the Gulf's hot and humid climate.

The quality of buildings is improving and that will keep prices up." Mr. Karam said in reference to dozens of new smart office and residential

Another factor which will huoy the industry in 1995 is the growth of large residential suburbs outside Abu Dhabi city.

New flats are usually bigger and have central airconditioning instead of noisy and cumbersome window units. Many new buildings also have swimming pools, squash

courts and gymnasiums.
As old huildings are de-molished in central Abu Dhahi and replaced by modern ones. their low-earning. mostly foreign inhabitants will move out to find afford-

able housing.
"In 1995 I see a shift from low-quality housing. Asian families will move out of Abu Dhabi." Mr. Karam said.

About 75 per cent of the UAE population are expatriate workers, mainly from the Indian subcontinent and

poorer Arab states. Mr. Karam said some UAE officials are keen to see a change in the population balance but said housing policy was not being used as a way of achieving this.

The government wants to give them better conditions and get rid of these ugly old buildings... but there's no -policy as such to drive them a certain way. It's a free market." he pointed out.

for ransom becomes 'industry' in Colombia

BOGOTA (AFP) - Kidnapping has become a veritable industry in Colombia, with nne person abducted and held for ransom every six hours, according to a report by a victims association.

A law calling for 60 years in prison for kidnapping had failed to stem the crisis. according to Justice Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez. who called abductions "the worst and most painful of crimes.

A total of 1.378 people were kidnapped in 1994, a 30 per cent increase from the previous year, according to the victims organisation Free

Country. Few of the criminals are caught — only 86 were arrested and jailed in 1994 which means that about 90 per cent of the kidnappings go unpunished, according to the report.

Areas' most affected include the cities of Cali. Ibague and

the capital Bogote.

Free Country, which was organised by former abduction victims, said the number of kidnappings reported to officials probably only represented 40 per cent of those crimes, with many families too frightened to notify authorities.

Police officials have said nearly 5,000 abductions muy have been carried out in the first six months of 1994 alone. About half of the crimes have been blamed on guerril-

la organisations trying to free their comrades or obtain funds to buy arms.

Kidnapping | EU reviews quotas, seeks \$500 million in subsidies for EU films

BRUSSELS. Belgium (AP) - Wary of Hollywood's grip on Europe, the EU executive commission has proposed close to \$500 million in subsidies for Europe's audiovi-sual sector between 1996-2000. a doubling of current

It said the aid, worth 400 million European Currency Units (ECUs) would pay for training, programme de-velopment and distribution to help bring more European films to cinemas and television screens.

Also, it took its first look at tightening quotas on im-ported films and television shows shown across the 15nation trading bloc. but announced no decision.

More than 80 per cent of films now shown in EU cinemas are non-European in origin, meaning mostly made-in-USA. Up to 60 per cent of broadcast time on EU television is non-European.

Raising the European content in cinemas and on television here has become a sore point in EU-U.S. relations. In 1989, the EU launched a

stations to use at least 51 per cent of air-time to show European programmes. -Now, France wants to increase those quotas, arguing European programmers, cannot compete with the Holly-

wood machine. EU Audiovisual Commissioner Marcelino Oreja said the new commission, which took office last month, could chart a strategy combining subsidies with already.

existing quotas. At a press conference, he denied the proposed new aid package was designed to placate those demanding higher. quotas, such as France. "I'm not trying to trade one point off against

another, he said. Yet, he said the quota law probably will be changed." He said the commission must decide on the type, geographic area, and time limit of quotas, as well as to which types of programmes they

would apply. Mr. Oreja and other commissioners suggested a likely outcome would be to retain the quotas, but to add a timetable for phasing them

Regardless of how they decide to protect Europe's audiovisual industry. Mr. Orejo said commissioners agreed on the need to hike funding. which has produced awardwinning movies in recent

The proposed subsidies must be approved by the 15 EU governments.

They would be used to develop television programmes with a "European dimension" and to train filmmakers. But the lion's share - some 260 million ECUsquota system requiring EU (\$320 million) goes to setting up a 15-nation distribution network for EU-made prog-

France's desire to raise the broadcasting quotas has caused friction inside the EU. Two weeks ago. Commission President Jacques Santer suggested quotas were not the best way to protect European

Quality Furnished Flats

One and Two Bedrooms

Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay

5th Circle

Under French pressure, he

later toned this down. Mr. Santer's commission appears divided over a tight-ening of quotas. Mr. Oreja would not reveal how comissioners lined up on the me, but sources close to the secting portrayed a fairly

even split. Throughout world trade talks in 1993. EU trade chief. Sir Leon Brittan, fought off French efforts to exempt films from the accord with a

"cultural exception." Industry Commissioner Martin Bangemann, who is German, also opposes protectionism on principle. Dur-ing their first debate, the "no" camp included Britain's Neil Kinnock, Italy's Mario Monti, Austria's Franz Fischler, Ireland's Padraig Flynn and Hans van Den Broke of

the Netherlands. In the "yes" corner were ench commissioners Edith resson and Yves de Silguy. Belgium's Karel van Miert. Finland's Eri Liikanen. Germany's Monika Wulf

Mathies, the sources said. The commission deliate warms up the plate for a meeting of EU culture ministers in Bordeaux, France.

next Monday and Tuesday. France, now holding the EU's rotating presidency. wants its partners to take a firm position by early April.

Mr. Oreja said he would try to have a proposal ready

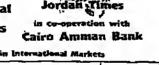
Jordan Times Tel: 667171

Financial Markets



NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET





Ситтепсу	Hew York Close	New York
	Date 9/8/95	In 10/2/95
Sterling Pound*	1.5575	1.5635
Deutsche Mack	1.5243	1.5170
Swips Franc	1.2933	1.2623
French Franc	5.2910	5.2585
Japanese Ven	94.50	96.70
European Curreny Unit	1.2345	1.2420

I MTH 3 MTHS 4 MTHS 11 MTHS

		- 1	- 100 0 0 0 0	10 1.0 . 100
U.S. Dollar	5.41	6.00	6.31	6.87
Sterling Pound	6.31	6.43	6.81	7.43
Destsche Mark	4.75	4.41	5. Ca	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.37	3.68	3.93	8.25
French Franc	5.37	5.56	5.87	6.37
Japanesc Yen	2.06	2.06	2.12	2.25
European Currency Unit	6.68	5.47	6.18	6.75

	Date: 11/2/1995		
Соглейсу	BL	Offer	
U.S. Duttar	0.700G	0.7020	
Stering Pound	1.0519	. 1.0974	
Deutsche Mark	0.4600	0.4623	
Switze Franc	0.5457	0.5479	
French Franc	0.1330	0.1357	
Japanese Yen*	0.7020	. 0.7105	
Dutch Guilder	0.4107	9.4128	
Swedish Kruna	*****	*****	
ltalian: Lira*	0.6434	0.0416	
Deigten Franç	*****	****	
B 188			

Delgian Franç	*****	****	
Per 140			
Other Correndus	Date: 11/2/1995		
Currency	Rid	Offer	
Bahraini Olmar	1.8410	1.8650	
Lobenese Line*	0.041975	6.042859	
Sandi Riyal	8.1860	9.1875	
Karrelti Diner	2.3200	2.3650	
Qatari Riyal	0.1311	0.1935	
Egypties Pound	0.2000	0.2130	
Omani Riyal	1.4970	1.8290	
UAE Dirism	6.1900	0.1920	

3.2815

0.5275

Creek Drackma

JORDAN MARKET



We also have many listings of las, flats, and building lots FOR SALE Commercial and residential. For more details call:

Abdoun Real Estate Tel. 819605/810609 810520 Fax: 810520



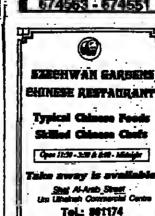
Jahri Amman - first circle opposite IRAO EMBASSI TEL ..: 654205

STUDIO HAIG If We Don't Have It We Will Make It Professional Quality in Precision Hour Service Customer Develop your colour film at Tailoring our shop and get:-· JUMBO phote size 30% larger · Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042 Swefieh tel: 823891









lace Tested Always Loved











Reno Air Games

Johnson, Joyner-Kersee set records

RENO (AP) - Record-setting performances by Michael Johnson and Jackie Joyner-Kersee stole the spotlight in a meet dominated by glitz and

Johnson set a world indoor record of 44.97 seconds in the 400 metres Friday night. finishing off a Reno Air Games that opened with Joyner-Kersee breaking her own American indoor mark in the 50-metre hurdles.

Johnson, who has never lost in 12 indoor 400s, got our to a blazing start and won easily. The old record was 45.02, set by fellow American Danny Everett in 1992.

"I haven't been on the boards since 1991. 1 don't really like it, but now I have a world record. It's kind of strange," said Johnson, the world's top-ranked runner at 200 and 400 metres. "I feel good. I wanted to give the people in Reno something to remember.

Johnson began his race at odds of 1-5 in what was believed to be the first non-Olympic meet in the United States to allow legal betting.

Joyner-Kersee, a five-time Olympic medallist, had a time of 6.67 seconds despite seeming to ease up at the end of the infrequently run event. The world record is 6.58 seconds, set in 1988 by Cornelia Oschkenat of the former East Germany.

The previous American best of 6.84 was set by Kim McKenzie in 1989 and matched by Joyner-Kersee in 1993

in Los Angeles.

Joyner-Kersee, an asthmatic, said the 1.370 metre elevation and the thinner air of Reno may have helped her set the record.

"I think it helped a little bit," she said. "But as far as my breatbing, it didn't help at

Joyner-Kersee came back later in the meet to win the long jump with a leap of 6.79

Maria Mutola kept alive her unbeaten streak in the women's 800 metres, finishing in 2 minutes, 0.95 seconds to win by nearly six seconds. The native of Mozambique has not lost, indoors or outdoors, since Au-

gust 1992. Gwen Torrence won the women's 200 metres despite feeling so sick she threw up after the race. Torrence had the flue and was trying to get used to braces placed on her

teeth on Wednesday "I told my hushand I didn't think I was going to make it." she said. "I'm weak and I've lost a few pounds. I thought if I could pull out a win at my

worst, I can win at my best. Regina Jacobs held off Olympic 1,500-metre champion Hassiba Boulmerka to win the women's mile, finishing in a relatively slow 4 minutes, 51,62 seconds. Boulmerka was 1.40 seconds

In the men's mile, threetime U.S. indoor champion Marcus O'Sullivan pulled away from the field in the final lap to win in 4.01.89.

Henry Neal, who won the 50-metre dash in the Millrose Games last week at New

Company staff house.

single or couple.

WANTED

English speaking Cook/Houskeeper for US

If I derested ... frase call: 699344, 8:00am - 3:00pm

A FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

200 metres from Goethe Institute. 3rd Circle Jabal

Amman, In villa Dr. George Steir, Nicely furnished

apartment overlooking a most relaxing garden, for a

Tel. No. 641515. If interested, please do call

between 8-10 a.m.: 1-4 p.m.

FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED-

ROOF FOR RENT

A brand-new roof consists of three bedrooms, three baths,

maid's room, two living rooms, dining room, large kitchen,

central heating system and surrounding terrace, over

If interested, call 676000 - after 2 p.m.

looking Um Uthaineh's attractive views.

Total area 360 sq.m., built area 180 sq.m.

Must be resident of Jordan and willing to live-in.



York, held off Jon Drummond and a field that included Dennis Mitchell to win again Friday in 5.63 seconds — the third-fastest ever by an American. Drum-mond was second in 5.72 and Mitchell was fourth in 5.57.

Olympic gold medallist and two-time world indoor champion Mike Conley finished just eight in the triple jump, leaping 15.47 metres. The winner was Kenny Harrison at 17.05 metres.

The competition was preceded by an elaborate opening ceremony, complete with lasers and spottights, reflecting the sport's made-for-TV efforts to market itself more aggressively in the United States. The meet was to be shown on tape Saturday on the NBC television network.

The athletes waved to the crowd as they were introduced to music. Joyner-Kersee was introduced last. and her peers formed a circle and bowed to her in respect - forcing the modest Joyner-Kersee to hide her head in

embarrassment. Odds were posted on seven of the 16 events in the meet. The berning was conducted at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino, one of the meet's sponsors. Participating athletes were warned before the meet by USA Track and Field officials not to bet on

any of the races. Betting was light, with only about \$7,000 wagered on the races about an hour before the meet began.

The meet is the second of five events of the Indoor Grand Prix. which began last weekend with the Millrose

Top athletes meet in L.A.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jon Drummond ranked No. 3 internationally in the 100-metre dash in 1994, and he expects even better things this year.

Drummond, a former Texas Christian University standout who set a personal best of 9.99 seconds last year, is scheduled to run the 50 metres in the Sunkist Invitanonal at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

"I think I'm as good as anyone else in the world right now in the 100." Drummond said. "And I expect to im-prove my personal record again this year."
He will be matched in the

dash against Mike Marsh, the 1992 Olympic champion at 200 metres. Also in the sprint is high school senior Bryan Howard of California, who 5.69 in the Sunkist a year

Jackie Joyner-Kersee, a three-time Olympic gold medalist who had an outstanding 1994 season, will run in the 50-metre hurdles.

She faces a field that includes Lynda Tolhert-Goode, the bronze medalist in the 1993 World Championships in the high hurdles. Joyner-Kersee finished onehundredth of a second ahead of Tolbert-Goode in the 60metre hurdles a week ago at the Millrose Games.

Said Aouita, the dominant middle-distance runner in the world in the late 1980s, is making a comeback after missing 21/2-years because of



Jackie Joyner-Kersee

a variety of injuries. Aouita, 35, an Olympic gold medallist in the 5,000 in 1984 and a bronze winner in the 800 at Seoul in 1988, at 1500, 2000, 3000 and 5000

His time of 3 minutes. 29.46 seconds in 1985 still ranks as the second-fastest 1500 ever, behind only Noureddine Morceli of Algeria, with a 3:28.86 in

Jim Spivey, Niall Bruton of Ireland and Jason Pyrah will provide the major competinon for Aouita in the mile at the sports arena.

The men's 50-metre hurdles features the first and second-ranked Americans in the high burdles in 1994. Mark Crear and Robert Reading, both are Southern Cal graduates and crear set a personal best of 13.07 in the

for a few years, but McMurdo held a golf

tournament Jan. 29 on the

ice runway. Williams field,

which was renamed the

"Ice Pines Course" for the

But Golf is only one of

the games in which athletes

way down under have had

to change the rules to

accommodate the condi-

If your playing softball — like baseball and a popular

recreation game with

Americans — and someone

hits a long home run, let it

go. Any attempt to chase it down could be deadly.

is beyond the solidly frozen "ice wharf" where ships

land supplies in summer.

and on the Rose Sea ice,

riddled with crevasses that

are often concealed under

the latest dusting of snow.

An outfield who plays

deep left field could easily

plunge into the freezing

The edge of the outfield

I10-metre hurdles and reading ran a career best of 13.34. Other featured events include the women's 880 yards, the men's 3,000, the pole

World champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique, unbeaten in 30 races stretching back over the past two years. will compete in the 880 yards. She was second in the track and field news voting for 1994 woman athlete of the year behind Joyner-Kersee.

Reuben Reina, a former National Collegiate Athletic Association cross-country champion from the University of Arkansas, will run in the men's 3,000 among his competitors will be University of Arizona star Martin Keino. son of legendary Kenyan distance runner Kip Keino and the 1994 NCAA cross country

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Belgium's FC Llege \$8 million in

Nigeria

FIFA

to appeal

decision

LAGOS (AFP) — As anger over FIFA's decision to can-

cel the World Youth Cup

grew here Saturday the head

of the Nigerian Football Fed-eration (NFF) said he would appeal the decision. NFF president Emeka

Omeruah added that he was

not convinced by the reasons put forward by FIFA.

Football's world governing body announced Friday that

the risk to health had been

behind the decision and not

fears that Nigeria was not up

to staging the tournament.

The World Youth Cup
due to take place in Nigeria
has had to be unavoidably

called off. FIFA's emergency

committee was forced to

make the decision after the

health situation worsened

during the last few weeks," it

A statement said the out-

break of cholers and mening-

itis had occurred at Kaduna

The announcement has un-

leashed a backlash against

FIFA. Babasbola Rhodes,

head of the country's National Sports Council (NSC), ac-

cused FIFA of insulting black

.And the Nigeria press was also scathing in its condemna-

tion.
"FIFA stabs Nigeria in the back" was the headline of the

popular Daily Times.
"We believe that there

has been a wicked conspira-

cy against Nigeria and her

aspirations to host the current FIFA/Coca Cola Cup championship," said the pap-er in a front page comment

The Champion newspaper also claimed the decision was

a plot against the West Afri-

can country.

"Without mincing words, we want to make it absolutely clear that this design of FIFA's is totally unacceptable to Nigeria and the black world in general. Indeed any attempt to take away the championship from Nigeria must be seen for what it is: A

must be seen for what it is: A

racist and political ploy to

further humiliate the black

continent," said the paper in

FIFA's decision to cancel

the tournament comes less

than two months after a cri-

preparations for the cham-

FIFA officials who visited

Nigeria in December re-

ported back that prepara-

tions for the Cup were a

Everything from training

facilities to playing surfaces

were not up to acceptable

standards and FIFA vice-

president Jack Warner is re-

ported to have told Nigeria to

take drastic action or the

tournament would be held

Recent reports from Lagos

revealed that the FIFA Presi-

dent Joao Havelange had

called on Nigeria to withdraw

its candidacy because of orga-

nisational problems.

pionship was presented.

tical report about in

can country.

an editorial.

shambles.

elsewhere.

announced.

and Enngu.

Africa.

BRUSSELS (R) - Belgian club FC Liege said on Friday it is \$8 million in debt, has stadium unfit for public use and is close to bankruptcy... "We've got a 250 million franc (\$8 million) debt and we lose an additional million francs (\$32,000) every week," said FC Liege director Pierre Delahaye. "If we wait another two months, it will be too late. It's now or never." Liege are bottom of the first division. Delahaye said informal merger talks with another Belgian first division club, Seraing, were underway. "We're also open to any possible takeover Proposal. But so far there hasn't been any clear one," he added.

Kamsky forces draw against Salov

SANGHINAGER, India (AP) — American grandmaster Gata Kamsky drew in 107 moves against Valery Salov of Russia in the Fourth game of the World Chess Championship Semifinals Saturday. The draw gives Kamsky a 3-1 lead over Saloy in the 10-game tournament in this southern Indian City. Salov started cautiously and chose a variation of the Nimzo-Indian defence to gain time. He maintained a slight advantage when the opening phase of the game was over and middlegame fight began. Kamsky's moves were complicated and ended up helping Salov. The game was adjourned with Kamsky sealing his 61st move and experts considered it as dead drawn position. Kamsky needed another 47 moves to secure a draw.

Dailas receiver signs \$15m contract

IRVING, TEXAS (AP) — A five-year, \$15 million contract will make Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin the highest-paid receiver in U.S. National Football League history. Irvin, a four-time Pro Bowl selection who has led the Cowboys in receiving the past four season, is getting a \$5 million, upfront bonus in the deal which beats a four-year, \$11 million contract signed by Tim Brown of the Los Angeles Raiders. Irvin, the Cowboys' fourth all-time leading receiver with 6.935 yards, has earned \$1.25 million in each of the past three years.

Uncertainty surrounds Fogdoe after accident

STOCKHOLM (R) - Doctors said Friday they would not know for several days, or even weeks, if Swedish Alpine skiing star Thomas Fogdoe would be paralysed after a training accident earlier this week. Fogdoe, World Cup slalom champion in 1993, was transferred to a normal ward at the University Hospital in Umea, northern Sweden, from the intensive care unit where he had been since he was admitted on Tuesday. Fodgoe was training with the rest of the Swedish downhill team at Are - 300 kms from Umea - when he entered a wood and apparently crashed into a tree, eye witnesses said.

Foreman may retire after fighting Schulz

OSLO (R) — George Foreman, the oldest heavyweight boxing champion in history, said Friday he may retire from the ring after his title fight against German Axel Schulz in April. Foreman, 46, also said he hoped to settle a dispute with the World Boxing Association (WBA) over his planned match against Schulz, who is 20 years his junior. "There is a chance that I'd wait around for Mike Tyson to get out and get himself back into shape," Foreman, asked about the future; told reporters during a promotion trip to Oslo. "But, if he doesn't, probably the fight with Axel Schulz could be my last boxing match. I got things to do, I just can't hang around and box too long." just can't hang around and box too long."

Blackpool owner charged with rape

LONDON (R) - British businessman Owen Oyston, former media tycoon and owner of Blackpool football club, was charged on Friday with four rapes, three indecent assaults and conspiracy to procure women, pobce said. Detectives spent nearly two days interviewing Oyston, 60, after taking him from his home in Lancaster, Northern England, to a police station in Manchester. Oyston, who began bis career as a sewing machine salesman, made his fortune in the property business and later founded a media empire in the northwest of England.

Dodgers near deal with Japanese

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Hideo Nomo, the winningest pitcher in Japanese baseball over the past five seasons, is being courted by six U.S. teams but is reportedly nearing. ment on a deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Nomo retired from Japanese baseball after five exceptional seasons with the Kintetsu Buffaloes, opening the way for the right-handed to join the North American major leagues. The Los Angeles Daily News reported Friday that there was an agreement between the Dodgers and Nomo on a minor-league deal that included a two million-dollar bonus. Team spokesman Derrick Hall said the story was premature. "We have had a couple of meetings with Nomo," Hall said. "An offer has been made. As far as the negotiations are concerned, we have no comment."

Ex-champ Lewis returns in May

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain will fight Lionel Butler hereon May 13 in a World Boxing Council bout to decide a mandatory title challenger for later this year. U.S. promoter Dan Duva paid \$1.6 million for the rights to the bout in bidding Thursday in Mexico, outspending Don King. King had hoped to stage the fight along with the WBC title bout between Oliver McCall and ex-champ Larry Holmes here on April 8. McCall, who beat Lewis for the title last September, would fight the Lewis-Butler winner in September.

Boxer admits shooting gun at party

PHOENIX (AFP) — Former world boxing champion Michael Carabjal pleaded guilty here Friday to recklessly firing a gun at a party and was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service. Carbajal, an Olympic silver medalist, was also put on two years probation. He will continue his work with youth groups in a slum neighbourhood here. Carbajal, 26, pleaded guilty to a charge of reckless firing, a felony which carries a maximum one-year sentence. He is set to serve a 30-day sentence in August but good probation behaviour will likely mean he will not have to serve any jail time. Police charged Carbajal with firing 12 shots into the air last September after he was ejected from a party.

Sports in Antarctica require adjustments

Antarctica (AP) - Golf has its "winter rules." Antarctica has its extreme versions for all kinds of pames: softball, skiing, rug-

hy, and yes, golf too. Die-hard Antarctic athletes are constantly making adaptions to the uniquely cold, dry environment; some rules border on the Surreal.

If you're golfing, you don't merely improve your lie should the ball find its way to the ground under repair.

Standing water, leaves and other hazards normal golfers confront in late season are nothing compared to skuas - large, carnivorous Aniarctic sea guils. New Zealanders from the Scott Base used to challenge the Americans at

MeMurdo Station to a periodic "Masters Classic Golf Tournament. One of the rules of the "Masters Classic" was that if a hungry, curious skua

picked up your ball, you had to play it from where he dropped it - after he realized it wasn't edible. Players used coloured golf balls, since white ones tend to get lost on the icv

water. A man loses consciousness in less than two minutes and is dead in a Rule number one of the McMurdo Station's Antarctic Softball League: "Please note ice is very

unstable, there is no ball

flexible, depending on the progress of the U.S. Coast

The softball season is

retrieving onto the ice."

Guard icebreakers each summer. Rule number two is: "League will end when wharf is needed for ship offload operation. The Kiwis and Yanks do

get into a rugby scrum be-tween the bases now and then. Souvenir rugby jerseys can be bought sporting goods shops in Christchurch, New Zealand, the regional headquarters of the U.S. and New Zealand polar programmes.

The sporting highlight of the year at McMurdo is the annual Scott's Hut run, a 7-kilometre 4 road race over the volcanic cinders of Ross island. About 200 of the 1,200 Americans and 80 or so Scott Base New Zealanders joined the latest race on Jan. 22.

The start of the race was signalled by a bagpiper, under perpetually sunny Antarctic summer skies. with temperatures hovering around the freezing point.

The runners streaked off toward the first checkpoint and landmark, the hut built by British Capt. Robert F. Scott in 1902 during his first Antarctic expedition.

Lazy Weddell seals sunbathed on the Ross Sea ice near the but; a few languidly rolled over to gaze at the runners dressed in fluores-

cent colours. Among the most colourful were some of the New Zealanders. who walked the course toting a wheelbarrow full of beer.

Antarctica is, in many ways, a skier's dream, and McMurdo rents cross-country skis for just a few dolars a week.

But skiers must stick to marked, flagged trails; the snow fields are treacherous, and people who stray just 100 metres (few bundred feet) from the trail have been killed in plunges down crevasses hidden under fresh snow.

Scott hase runs the world's southernmost ski bill, complete with a 200metre (600-foot) tow rope looped around the rear wheel of a truck so skiers can glide upbill. People also careen down the Scott Base ski run on snowboards, inner tubes and toboggans.

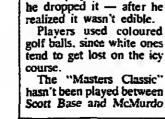
Some of the McMurdo scientists and support staff burn off extra energy in fierce basketball and volleyball games in the gymnasium. Erick Chang of the National Science Foundation said broken bones from these games are the most common emergencies that the base hospital has to deal with

NEW APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment. 3 bedrooms, living, dining room, k.b.; central heating & telephone. Location: Wasfi Tal Str. (Gardens). Behind Jordan Kuwait

"Call: 694535 -







Three years to the day he first reached tennis' top ranking, Jim Courier kept on track in his quest to climb back by getting past Jim Grabh 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) Friday night at the

San Jose Open. Instead of dwelling on his past glory, Courier just waots in think about what's happening now.

"I was happy to end it in two sets," Courier said. "Jim just played hetter in the second set. It wasn't a matter of me playing worse."

Courier, now ranked 11th. earned a meeting with second seed and No. 6 Michael Chang, a hearty rival over the years, in the semifinals. Top seed Andre Agassi will face fifth seed Malivai Washington in the afternoon semi-

"There won't be any sur-prises." Courier said about playing Chang again. "We know each other's game real-

Grabh, who had 24 aces in his last win, managed just one against Courier. Still, he bad the chance to force a split set when he went up 5-4 in the tiebreaker before Courier won three straight points to take the match. All four semifinalists have

advanced without losing a set in three tournament matches. Courier is 13-1 in match play this year, winning 35 of 37 The second-ranked Agassi,

who held off Brian MacPhie 6-4, 6-3 said he didn't feel like be was playing somebody ranked 374th.

"To me, he's a much better player than his ranking shows," Agassi said. "I felt like I had to stay focused the entire match. I felt if I stayed on him, good things would happeo.

Agassi bad never before faced MacPhie, a 22-year-old hometown boy from San Jose who had never faced a player in the top 10.

In each set, Agassi had to wait until 3-3 to break the determined MacPhie.

"You know how those matches turn here," Agassi said. "I was down three or four hreak points in the first set. I couldn't afford to let him get the adrenaline

Agassi has won 25 of his last 26 matches against players not in the top 100.

Now he'll face Washington, who heat Bryan Shelton 6-2, 6-1, ranked 40th, Washington broke a threegame losing streak to Agassi when he beat him 6-4, 7-5 last year in Atlanta. They have not met since.

Chang fought off serves hy Greg Rusedski tbat reached a



"I was trying to come in to put pressure on her. I had a lot of success in the beginning and I kept doing it." Sabatini

said, "I got some b g points at the net in the ticbreaker."

Sabatini was to meet third-

seeded Magdalena Maleeva

in the semifinals at the Uni-

versity of Illinois at Chicago

Maleeva, who drew a first-

round bye and then got a

second-round walkover.

finally got to play Friday and

defeated Belgium's Laurence

Courtois 6-3, 6-3. The other semifinal pitted Zioa Garrison Jackson against Lisa

Raymond beat fifth-seeded

Amy Frazier 6-4, 6-3 in the quarters, one night after

ousting defending champion

Schultz and No. 7 Garrison

Jackson battled through a 2-

hour, 30-minute three-setter

before Garrison Jackson pre-

vailed 6-7 (7-4), 6-3, 7-6 (7-

In the best match of the

Natasha Zvereva.

Raymond.

Jim Courier record 137 mpb (220 kph),

bolding on to win two topsy-turvy tiebreakers 7-6 (8-6),

Sabatini defeats Rubin in Chicago In Chicago Gahriela Saba-

fini's biggest scare didn't come on the court. It came a short time later, after she'd beaten Chanda Rubin to secure a spot in the Ameritech Cup semifinals. Sabatini got out of her

chair to leave a post-match news conference Friday night and slipped. It took her a coople of moments to get up but she emerged unscathed. "I'm ok," she said, getting

back on her feet to do another interview. Tournament officials were the happiest of all to hear those

Sabatini, the tournament's top draw and its second seed, beat Ruhin 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 and credited good net play. She won 11 points in 16 forays to Becker struggles in Marseille In Marseille top seed Boris

Becker fought back from losing a marathon 24-point second set tic-break and squandering six match points to beat fellow German Joern Renzenbrink on Friday in the Marseille Men's Indoor

It took the former world number one three sets and just over two hours to tame Renzenbrink 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 and secure a place in the semi-

Becker had little trouble winning the first set fie-break 7-1, hnt the second proved a totally different matter.

Each player bad six chances to win the set - and in Becker's case the match as the rie-break seesawed with the hard-hittiog Renzen-brink firing down a series of

Becker responded by moving up a gear as Renzenbrink tired and comfortably took the deciding set to carn a match against Fremchman Olivier Delaitre for a place in

Sunday's final. Delaitre, the fourth seed, had a much easier passage, crushing Czech David Rikl in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

However, Czech Daniel Vacek kept his country's hopes alive when he onsted second seed Yevgeny Kafel-nikov of Russia 7-5, 7-6.

Gaudenzi, Ferreira reach Dubai semis

In Dubai, United Arah Emirates Andrea Gaudenzi overcame windy conditions to beat Henrik Holm 6-4, 6-2 Friday, sending the Italian into the semifinals at the Dubai Open.

Gaodenzi, ranked 24th on the ATP Tour and wbo upset No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic in the first round, let the tall Sweden beat himself. Holm had six double faults and ironically, the only two aces of the match.

In another quarterfinal, No. 4 seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa ended wild-card Pat Cash's run, routing the Australian 6-1, 6-2 oo the hardcourts of the aviation

In aoother quarterfinal match, Spain's Javier Sanchez earned a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Australia's Todd Woodbridge and now meets Fer-And No. 6 seed Petr Korda

of the Czech Republic beat Germany's Carsten Arriens 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. Korda now will play Gaudenzi in the semi-finals.

NBA stars contemplate all-Star weekend

PHOENIX (AP) - In the eyes of classic long-range shooters like Larry Bird and Reggie Miller, the 22foot are has turned the NBA 3-point shooting contest into an exercise for centres, power forwards and other low-lifes.

"Larry Bird would be asbamed to be in this event," Reggie Miller, a critic of the shortened 3point distance this season, said Friday. "Bot since I'm in it. I want to win it."

Bird, who won the first three long distance shoot-outs from 1986-88, has scoffed at any 3-point re-cords set this season becanse the distance bas been cot from 23-9.

Besides bis shooting skill, Bird took advantage of his ability to shoot 3pointers as a set shot to outlast exhausted jomp shooters in the late rounds. With the shorter distance contest, stamina could be less of a factor.

"I got worn down last said Chicago's Steve Kerr, the No. 2.3-point shooter in the NBA this season at 47.7 per cent. "I had a great first round and thought, this is going to be easy, but I couldn't hit anything in the second round. The shorter shot makes it easier."

Chuck Person, making his first appearance in the contest after ninc seasons in the NBA, declared himself the favorite in the event because of his upperbody strength and strong

legs.
"It's in the bag," said
Person, probably most
famous for his trash-talking battles with the now-retired Bird. "I'm strong in the upper body, and with the shorter distance, I don't have to jump as high and push off as hard. But the key is getting past the first round

Miller, who has been in three previous long distance shootouts, agreed with Person that the first round is "the oervous round. Everybody goes in thinking they're going to win, and they are afraid they'll be humiliated if they don't shoot well in the first round.

The contest lost its favorite when Mark Price, who hoped to join Bird and Craig hodges as three-time winners, was injured. "When Mark Price went

was not a factor last year out, I thought I would be when he lost to Price 25-13 able to wag my tongue io in the final round. the locker room beforehand," said Miller, a 43.2 "I wasn't tired," he said. "I shoot hundreds of 3s per cent 3-point shooter this season. "Then Chuck every day. Tiredness did Person came in and that not come into play. You

Minnesota Timberwolves centre Charles Shakelford + 17 jumps overs Chicago Bulls only have to shoot 25 balls in each round. It's not like. you have to take 70 shots in

> Also in the long distance shootout are Scott Burrell, Dan Majerle, Ninck Andersoo and Gleo Rice. Majeric leads the NBA 3-point attempts with 340, but has made just 38.2

"I never get tired of shooting 3s," said Majerle, who should benefit from playing in his home arena in Phoenix. "Every round that goes by, my chances get bigger."

Isaiah Rider will defend his title io the slam-dunk contest against Tony Dumas of Dallas, Antonio

Harvey of the Lakers, Miami's Harnold Miner, Utah's Jamie Watsoo and Tim Perry of Philadelphia.

"Last year, I had homecourt advantage (in Min-neapolios)," Rider said. "I think it will be a lot closer this year, but I have some things that will get big oum-

Rider admitted that the slam-dunk contest has los some of its luster from previous All-Star Saturdays when Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins were featured.

"I'd like to see us be able to use props," Rider said. There are only so many dunks you can do. Props would make it interesting

Williams: Italians will cite steering failure in Senna crash

to report that a broken steering column caused the accident that killed three-time world champion Ayrton Senna, according to Williams-Renault chairman Frank Williams. Williams is fearful that Bologna magistrate Maurizio Passarini, whose report is expected in the next few days, will recommend that criminal charges be brought against both Williams and the team's technical director, Patrick

"We are expecting the report any day," Williams told British journalists at the team's headquarters. "They tend to think the column broke. That is what they have talked about a great deal. We haven't seen the car for a proper inspection yet so we are not able to defend ourselves. Senna's Williams-Renault Fwl6b/2 was impounded by

Italian authorities after bis crash during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola, Italy, on May I last year. Senna died after he mysteriously went straight off the track at the Tamburello turn on the sixth lap of the race and crashed head-on into a concrete barrier at 209 kph (131 mpb). An autopsy revealed that the 34-year-old Brazilian was killed by a piece of the car's suspension that pierced his

GOREN BRIDGE

COMBINE THOSE CHANCES

Pass Pass Pass Pass Pass ing lead

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH

4 Q 9 a 5 K J 10 5

The cause of the crash has never been explained,

although Senna's failure to make the turn could indicate a

problem with the steering.
"Mybe it broke, maybe it didn't," Williams said, "But the report will say what their group of experts think or what is their judgement of what happened.

"I wait with some trepidation, because if they say that the column broke then it reflects badly on us. It could be the start of a long procedure, which would not be a pleasant

"We'll get the car back soon after the report is released and bave an independent examination. We'd be more comfortable with a report we'd had an input to. It has been a problem having this hanging over us and it has affected a

Passarini is also investigating the death of Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger, whose Simtek-Ford crashed during qualifying the day before the race.

If charges are brought as a result of either accident,

Williams said it would force Formula One's governing body to consider the viability to staging races in Italy.

"The big problem is, could we race in Italy again?"

Williams, said. "Today it is us, tomorrow it could be McLaren or anybody else."

vised to pick out the right trail and

vised to pick out the right trail and ignore the red herrings.

Six clubs is an excellent contract. Played correctly, it will succeed whenever clubs are 3-2 and diamonds 4-2 or, if trumps are 4-1, when diamonds are 3-3. North-South used a series of cue-bids, with North striving for a grand slam, to get to the optimum spot. Since North's two hearts, the fourth suit, created a game force, there was no need to bid more than four clubs

best to the more than four chings to setting the scene for the cue-bidding sequence that followed.

At one table declarer chose a simple line. The acc of diamonds awas cashed, trumps were drawn, followed by king of diamonds and another. When the suit split 4-2 with

no honor appearing on the first two rounds, there were only 11 tricks to

Another declarer tried a slightly

Tcl.: 699238

FOR RENT

centre Lac Longley

strategy went out the win-dow. He taught me every-

thing I know about

Dana Barros, a virtual unknown before making

Sunday's All-Star game as

Confere ce will be going into the

long distance shootout

as the NBA's leader io 3-

Barros, slight of build

and the shortest competitor

at 5-foot-11, said stamina

hackup for the Eastern

Two modern furnished apartments. Each one: 180 sq.m., 3 bedrooms. Centrally heated &...dish. Quiet area. Location: University Street. Tel.: 833582

FLAT FOR RENT

-3 bedrooms, 2 salons, 3 bathrooms, large kitchen, 2 verandas. - Location: Abdoun - behind Housing Bank.

Call Tel.: 821173

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading industrial and commercial group is seeking for the following position:

An accountant, preferable CPA

Above applicant should be:

1. University graduale. 2.3 years experience in relevant field. 3. Good command of Arabic & English language. 4. Having good experience in using computers. 5. To be able to analyse and create financial

Send CV to:

Financial Manager P.O.Box 7676 Amman 11118 Jordan or call Tel.: 676938



	J
	С
OA	Υ
AT	

Tcl.: 634144 | Cinema PHILADELPHIA

Yusra, Mahmoud Hamedieh The Immigrant

Shows: (2:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Eric Roberts & Geff Fahey

FREEFALL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

The movie: THE LION KING will

be shown on Fridays and Thurs-

days at 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

PLAZA

CONCORD CONCORD "1" ROBOCOP '3' Shows: 12:30, 2:45, 6:30, 8:15, CONCORD '2'

different tack. The ace of diamonds was cleared, followed by the ace and king of trumps. Declarer came to hand with a heart ruff, cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. East overruffed and declarer still had to lose a diamond—again down one.

The successful declarers won the opening lead, unblocked the are of themonds, then cashed the are and queen of trumps. Had someone failed to follow, declarer would have

had to rely no a 3-3 diamond break—cash the king, ruff a dia-mond, return to hand with a heart ruff, draw a third round of trumps with the jack and then run dis-monds until the defender ruffs.

When both followed declarer ruffed

a diamond with the king, returned to hand with a heart ruff to draw the last trump, then conceded a dia-

Stone The Specialist Shows: 3:45, 10:30

Sylvester Stallone - Sharon

Tel.: 618274 - 618275 AMMOUN THEATRE

SUM'A in the satincal play HI CITIZEN Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqieh Daily from 8:30 p.m.

Unildren's Play The Ninja Turtles Show Directed by Akiam Abul Ragheb Daily at 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy **Punctured Bag**

The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE

Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m.

For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays



Amman talks on displaced tentatively set for Feb. 26

By P. V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israel, Egypt and Jordan will meet in Amman this month to discuss the fate of the Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war, sources said Saturday.

The sources said the meeting would be at the level of foreign ministers and would take place on Feb. 26, but a definite date was expected to be finalised and announced by the foreign ministers of the four-party meeting in Washington on Sunday.

The discussion on the displaced Palestinians comes in line with a provision in the Sept. 13 declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO.

The foreign ministers of Jordan and Egypt and the head of the political department of the PLO met in Cairo last week to coordinate positions ahead of the expanded meeting with Israel.

The ministers, Abdul Karim Kabariti of Jordan and Amr Musa of Egypt, and Farouk Kaddoumi of the PLO endorsed a set of proposals that set out the rights of each category of displaced people and discussed means to facilitate their repatriation in accordance with a timet-

The proposals and timetable, details of which have not been revealed, will be presented to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres dur-

ing the Amman meeting.
Egypt, the PLO and Jordan have their own statistics and data base on the displaced, collected over the last one year. The figures have not been released.

Algerian

threatens

violence

PARIS (Agencies) — An

said Saturday that it might

resort to "other forms of

jihad (holy war)" in its bid to

overthrow the military reg-

"The soldiers of God are

capable of using other forms

of jihad to terrorise the enc-

mies of religion," the Islamic

Salvation Army (AIS), consi-

dered the armed wing of the

Islamic Salvation Front

(FIS), said in its clandestine

bulletin, Al Fath Al Muhine.

forms of holy war was taken

as referring to such suicide attacks as that of Jan. 30, on

the main police station in

central Algiers in which a

carbomber killed 42 people

and injured 2g6 more.

according to official figures.

numbered 35 and dated Feb.

10, did not refer explicitly to

that bombing, for which

another organisation, the

Islamic Armed Group

(GIA), has said it was re-

The bulletin claims "hun-

dreds of young men are ready

to sacrifice themselves on the

path of God to fight injus-

tice" and continues "neither killings nor torture will make

the Algerian Muslim nation

It said that the "pressures" exercised oo FIS chiefs, such

as the change of residence of its leader and deputy leader

Abassi Madani and Ali

Belhadj, who are under

house arrest, "are only a vain

attempt to influence the

morale of... the political and

military leadership."

Algerian Foreign Minister
Mohammad Salah Dembri

has confirmed the two men

The bulletin reports the

death of one of the leaders of

the AIS in central Algeria,

Abdul Wahah, in a clash with

security forces but gives no

details as to the site of the

clash or of any other losses in

It reports only that he was

a native of Ouled Yaiche, a

fundamentalist stronghold

near Blida in the south of the

France has delivered two

the group led by him.

couotry.

have been transferred.

led by the FIS yield."

sponsible.

However, the bulletin,

The reference to new

group

more

ime in Algeria.

Israel is expected its own version of concept of the rights of the displaced and negotiators expect hard dis-

According to a senior official, "the most important thing is to speak with one voice while dealing with Israel.' "It means that the date

presented by Jordan, Egypt and the PLO should be compatible," said the official. "Hopefully we have achieved that coordination io

cial added. Israel and the PLO are not scheduled to take up the issue of "refugees" - those who lost their homes in British mandate Palestine when the

the Cairo meeting," the offi-

Jewish state was created in 1948 - until they begin "final status" negotiations in Many of the Palestinians who fled the West Bank to Jordan during the 1967 war were residents of camps in the territory and classified as

refugees since they were forced out of their homes to the West Bank in 1948. So, the actual number of Palestinians who came to Jordan in 1967 is much higher than the often-mentioned but varying figures of the "displaced." Political observers believed

Israel would not allow any large-scale repatriation of the estimated 900,000 "displaced" Palestinians to their homeland in the immediate

According to PLO officials Yasser Abed Rabbo and Nabil Shaath, more than 300,000 Palestinians were displaced during the 1967 war and over 95 per cent of them fled to Jordan and their number has grown to 900,000 with descendants.

Under the international

law, descendants of displaced bave the same rights of their parents. As such, all the 900,000 claim the right to be repatriated home.

Israel, which also expelled more than 2,500 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip after occupying the territories in 1967, has allowed several hondred Palestinians to return home in line with requests made by the PLO.

None of them was from the category of displaced. According to analysis, Israel, mindful of setting a prece-dent, has been careful not to allow any "displaced" persons to return home, leaving the issue to negotiations with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and

But Israeli permission to allow the return of the displaced is largely seen many critics of the Israel-PLO peace deal as a key iodicator of the success of the self-rule accord and of Israel's goodfaith intentions to honour the rights of the Palestinian people.
"Let us forget for a mo-

ment about economic de-velopment and self-rule elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Moham-mad Atwaik, who was three when his family had to flee Ramallah in the West Bank. "Let us see whether and when I can go back to Ramailah and claim my father's land where I would like to work. That will be the fruit of the peace process,"

"I am afraid I might be 80 or 90 when the Israelis get around to allowing me to go back," added Mr. Atwaik, an oddjob man at the Abdali central bus station and a resident of the Begaa refugee

NEWS IN BRIEF

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Syria is refusing to allow entry to Palestinians travelling from Jordan, a senior Palestinian official said on Saturday. "We have received reports from our people who could not enter Syria because

they were carrying Palestinian travel documents and lived

in Gaza and Jericho," Palestinian Authority member

Hassan Asfour told Reuters, Palestinians in the self-rule

areas of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho carry

passports issued by the Palestinian Authority. "The Syrian authorities are refusing to allow Palestinian passengers in."

Palestinians had been refused entry from Jordan to Syria.

Mr. Asfour, a member of the Palestinian team negotiating

with Israel over Palestinian elections, said he hoped a

peace treaty between Syria and Israel would resolve the

situation. "The Syrian-Palestinian relationship is politically

confused. We hope that the Syrians will change their

attitude towards our people after they sign a peace agreement with Israel within mooths," he said.

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israeli police have launched a hunt

for a teenage female soldier missing for more than 24

hours, police said Saturday. Shiraz Iskio, 18, was last seen

around dawn on Friday trying to start up her car to return to her parents home in Kfar Saba in the suburbs of Tel

Aviv. She had just spent the evening with friends in a Tel

Aviv bar. Her anxious father alerted police when she failed

to arrive home and an elite unit has been combing the route

she would have normally taken between the bar and ber

home. Voluoteers have also joined in the search and a

helicopter was overflying the area. Police have not ruled out any possibility, including that she may have been

iran reports iraqi violations of ceasefire

NICOSIA (R) - Iran has told the United Nations of 35

recent alleged violations by Iraq of a ceasefire that ended their eight-year war, Iran's IRNA agency said on Saturday. It said Iran's mission to the U.N. on Friday reported the violations, which happened between Oct. 23 and Nov. 15

last year. It said the report "referred to opening fire with

light weapons towards Iran's territory, patrolling, concen-

tration and stationing of Iraqi forces in no-man's-land.

installation of barbed wire and machine guns. construc-

tioo of military bases and new embankments ... and

patrolling of Iraqi armoured units along border lines as instances of ceasefire violations." It also reported belicop-

ters flying over no-man's-land in southern and western regions of the borders between the two countries whose

1980-88 war ended under a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire.

U.N. to close Mogadishu port for 6 days

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOMI has ordered the port of Mogadishu closed to commercial shipping from Feb. 26 to March 3. U.N.

officials said Saturday. Sources at the office of the U.N.

secretary-general's deputy special representative, Hisbam Omayad, said the port would reopen as UNOSOM began

the final stage of withdrawing its 8,000 remaining troops

from the war-torn Horn of Africa country. Mr. Omavad is also the chief of UNOSOM's committee for Mogadishu

Port Authority. But the source did not indicate who will run the port after its reopening on March 4. UNOSOM had

repeatedly called for the establishment of a joint committee, consisting of members from the main warring factions, to

run the port authority after the U.N. pullout from Somalia.

TUNIS (AFP) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Hahib Ben

Yabia leaves Sunday for a week-long tour of Czechoslova-

kia, Hungary and Romania, an official said here oo

Saturday. The minister will discuss trade and closer

economic cooperation with his counterparts in the former

East bloc countries, the official added. Tunisia wants to

Ben Yahia to tour Central Europe

kidnapped or murdered.

Female soldier missing in Israel

our, adding that "a large number" of

Syria 'refusing entry to Palestinians'



Iranian women belonging to the Islamic Basiji militia march in the capital Tehran on Saturday to mark the 16th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution (AFP photo)

Egyptian unionists stage protest

CAIRO (R) - Doctors, engioeers, lawyers and other professionals whose unions are dominated by Islamists. marched in Cairo on Saturday to protest against alleged government interference.

Hundreds of other Islamist union members waved placards and chanted in front of parliament, denouncing a egal amendment which they fear the government will use to drive them out of the associations.

The demonstrators, who converged on Cairo from several provinces, waved placards, that read "No to gov-ernment interference. Only unions can decide." Some chanted "Allahu Akbar" as they stood outside parliament buildings in crowded downtown Cairo.

Dozens of riot police stood by hut did not intervene. A planned demonstration by lawyers last year turned vented them from marching

to a presidential palace. The legal amendemnt, which strengthens the role of the judiciary in sopervising association elections, is at committee stage in parliament and could go before full

house next week. Many of the protesters were young, bearded men who belong to the large Islamist movement within the unions, but some were non-Islamists who had come to protest what they see as goverament interference in their

A delegation from the protesters met the deputy parliament speaker, Ahmad Hammadi, to present the group's petition. Mr. Hammadi told them parliament would not pass the amendment until it had considered the unions' objections, one protestor

The associations representing lawyers, doctors and engioneers have held emergency meetings and rallies over the last four days to campaign against the amendment. The doctors and engioeers

put large oaid advertisements

in government newspapers (Continued on page 7)

Iran celebrates anniversary with anti-Western defiance

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Marchers throoged the streets of Tehran on Saturday to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Islamic re-

Shouts of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" rose forth from some parts of the procession, which the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) estimated at several million strong. However, at the central

Azadi Square where they assembled reporters estimated a crowd of about a half million people.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani told the crowd that the West is mistaken if it thinks communism has been replaced as its main threat hy fundamentalist Islam, which became state dogma in Iran after the Feb. 11, 1979, founding of the Islamic republic.

They have made a big hlunder by drawing such a comparison," he said in the speech, broadcast live on national radio.

Mr. Rafsanjani was referring to comments by the chief of the Western military alliance, Willy Claes, who said recently that Muslim "fundamentalism is at least as dangerous as communism The 16 North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies agreed Wednesday to set up closer lioks with Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritamia to counter what they see as the destabilising influence of Islamic fundamentalism. During the cold war, NATO's main function was to defend Western Europe

from the Soviet Union. On Friday, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich seconded Mr. Claes' warning. He said the United States must focus its national security policy on the "worldwide phenomenon of Islamie totalitarianism funded and largely directed by the state of Iran."

Mr. Rafsanjani said the West's "second mistake" was to assume Iran is meddling in other countries' affairs. That error, be claimed, only en-

bances Islam's appeal. "Iran has no physical pre-sence in other Islamic coun-

tries. By raising such false issues, you make the people of the world more eager to hear the message of Iran and the Koran."

On Feb. 11, 1979, revolutionaries inspired by a Shiite Muslim cleric, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, proc-laimed the birth of the Islamic Republic of Iran after overthrowing Shah Moham-mad Reza Palavi.

The following year the nation began an eight-year war with Iraq. It is still trying to recover from the damage the war caused to the oil-dependent economy.

Iran hlames the West for its woes, IRNA characterised the country over the past 16 years as "a nation faced with innumerable plots, mischievons acts and ill-intentions of the enemies."

Despite the anti-Western rhetoric, the mood at the rally was largely festive.

Street vendors did brisk bosiness. Families with small children strolled through the

(Continued on page 3)

Russians shift shelling to town east of Grozny; deaths mount

sign of Russian warplanes

and there was no sound of

explosions coming from

southern fringe of Grozny,

another settlement still in the

rebels' hands, many buildings

were destroyed by the Russian shelling and billowed

hlack smoke into the sky.

have mostly left the capital.

were digging in south of the city in an effort to cut off an expected Russian drive into

Chechen fighters, who

In Chechen Aul on the

Grozny.

ARGUN, Russia (Agencies)

— Heavy Russian shelling hit the Chechen town of Argun on Saturday, two months after the Kremlin sent its army to subdue the rebel region in what it expected would be a

brief campaign. There was no attempt by the Russian soldiers to move forward across the Argun River flowing by the town 15 kilometres to the east of the regional capital Grozny.

Over 100 Chechen irregulars had dug in along the opposite bank of the river, which the Russian forces were clearly reluctant to cross. The Chechens had one cannon which fired on the

Russian positions. Argun, which was once home to 30,000 residents, is linked to Grozny by straggling strips of houses. It is still held by Chechen irregulars and has been the scene of intense firefights during the

the rebel-held countryside. ITAR-TASS news agency said shooting in Grozny had nearly stopped and only sporadic fire was heard in the south of the ruined city. The remaioing local residents

were in dire need of drinking water and medicines, it said. The press service of the Russian government, whose information often differs from eyewitness reports from passt few days.

On Saturday there was no that Chechen rebels were settiog up "major resistance centres" in the west and east

of the province. Some 6,000 fighters concentrated on the western border near Ingushetia and another 5,500 in the east, near Dagestan.

Earlier, Moscow has repeatedly said that it was mostly mercenaries who were fighting on the side of the rebel Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

RIA news agency quoted Umar Avturkhanov, deputy head of the administration Moscow is seeking to install, as saying up to 80 per cent of the Chechen population

opposed his body. He added, though, that by the end of February the resistance by the independence fighters will be "fully crushed," RIA said. In Moscow, several hun-

dred people gathered to de-mand that the bloody mittary campaign in Chechenya be

Weish police search for baby-snatcher

RHYL, Wales (R) — Police were scanning hospital security video tapes Saturday to try to identify an abductor who snatched a four-day-old baby girl from a materoity ward. Police searched oearby countryside, using tracker dogs and a Royal Air Force helicopter with night vision equipment after the distraught mother raised the alarm on Friday night. They believe a woman visitor who asked 32-year-old Christine Owens if she could look at baby Lydia may have smug-gled the child out of Glan Clwyd Hospital at Bodelwyddan, north Wales, in a holdall. "They went into the ward and visited Lydia's cot," a police spokesman said. "They then went into the ward day room and coo-tinued talking. Eventually the unidentified woman left. leaving Mrs. Owens in the day room. "A short time later Lydia was found to be missiog from the ward." Police, who described the woman as being in her late 30s or early 40s, hope security cameras will reveal her identity. Hospital spokeswoman Tonia Perry said the woman was not known to the mother, who has to other childreo. "The mother is extremely distressed," she added. Lydia Owens was the fourth infant to be snatched in Britain the past five years. All were safely recovered.

Nurse gets 5 years for throwing infant against wall

LONDON (AFP) - A male nurse employed by a London children's hospital was sentenced to five years in prison for maltreating infants and. on at least one occasion, throwing a newboro against a wall, fracturing her skull. The London court beard that Richard Coleman, 29, broke the arm of a seven-month-old baby in 1994 through rough treatment. The defendant said be bad fallen while carrying the child, but this was disproved by an expert withome, he wrenched the newborn up by the arm and threw ber against a wall. She suf-fered multiple cranial fractures and may have permanent damage. Mr. Coleman, a father of two children, admitted to being a moody person and said he had a tendency to bit things when he got upset. His lawyer, Alastair MacDuff, said Mr. Coleman was a "good nurse" and "adoring father" who had "simply snapped under pressure." But Judge Alan Hitching said that psychiatrists' reports gave no grounds for concluding that Mr. Coleman was mentally ill. The hospital said it had no reason to suspect maltreatment of children by Mr. Coleman until it heard about the incident with the newborn girl.

Prisoner on the run was freed by mistake

LONDON (AFP) — A prisoner is on the run after being released in error a week ago, the Prison Service confirmed. A police investigation was under way into how remand prisoner David Aves forged his release papers from Nor-wich jail, eastern England. According to Saturday's edition of The Sun, Aves, 36, who was awaiting trial at Ipswich Crown Court for theft, faked a fax from the court saying be should be released on bail. He was even given a lift to the station by prison officials, the tabloid newspaper claimed. A spokesmao for the Prisoo Service said Friday's a senior governor from another prison was investigating the escape. "I cannot confirm that a forged fax was used. An investigation is under way into how he was released in error," he said. The security lapse follows a series of embarrassments for Britain's Prisons Service. In January. John Marriott was relieved of his duties as governor of the high security Parkhorst Prison on the Isle of Wight, following the escape of three inmates. Also in January, inmates at Eventhorpe jail in northeast England rioted, and accused serial murderer Frederick West was found

Arab League wants Iraqi U.N. compliance

CAIRO (Agencies) — The after Iraq's invasion of Arab League is urging Iraq to mark the organisation's 50th anniversary in March by announcing it will comply with all United Nations resolutions, the league's head said Saturday.

"The Arab League is io permanent contact at all levels with Iraq to make it apply all U.N. resolutions and so allow Arab reconciliation." Esmat Abdul Meguid told the Saudi newspaper Al Asharo Ai Awsat.

"I hope Baghdad will make an announcement on the 50th anniversary of the Arab League" on March 22 "which. will help us to take a new step forward and contacts will continue up until the last moment," he said.

Ministers from the Cairobased Arah League's 21member states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are to meet here on March 22. The last Arab summit took

place in August 1990. just

Kuwait which deeply divided Arab countries over involve-ment of a U.S.-led coalition in the crisis.

The U.N. Security Council has demanded that Iraq release Kuwaiti prisoners of war, return Kuwaiti property, dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and sobmit to long-term monitoring of its arms programme before crippling sanctions imposed in 1990 are lifted.

Dr. Abdal Meguid told the London-based Arabic paper published in several regional capitals that Arab League members would also decide on what joint position to adopt over signing a renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April in New York.

Egypt has threatened not to sign the treaty unless Israel joins up. The Jewish state, which has never acknowledged reports it has 200 nuclear warheads, refuses to sign

Dr. Abdul Meguid said "some countries would tend to sign the NPT without an Israeli commitment, which means we need Arab coordination on this issue. "A definite decision will be

takeo in March." Iraq urge end to rift Iraq oo Saturday urged Arab countries to heal rifts caosed by the Gulf crisis in order to present a united front against Israel and the

West. "Divisions only serve the interests of imperialists and the Zionists who want to seize the resources of Arab countries," the pro-government Al Iraq daily said.

"So it is up to these countries to forget their dispotes, to work for reunification and to open a new chapter in their relations.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said last month that his country was "vital" to protect the security of Arab countries against Israel and

The Babel daily accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which oppose the lifting of sanctions of "wanting to maintain (inter-Arab) divi-

The newspaper welcomed the fact that "certain Arab countries are trying to save the Arab Nation by sincere calls for a return to communal Arah action." Ekens to visit fraq

U.N. disarmament expert Rolf Ekeus is expected to fly to Baghdad on Feb. 19 for his first visit since Traq criticised him for failing to free the country from sanctions.

David Underwood, the commission's Bahrain-based regional chief, said Mr. Ekens will stay in Baghdad two to four days. He declined to comment on the purpose of the visit.

Mr. Ekeus heads the U.N. Special Commission in charge of eliminating Iraq's wespons of mass destruc-

establish "non-competitive relations" with Central Eurohelicopters to Algeria despite pean countries engaged in economic reform programmes, the official added. The country began its own programme fears by Islamic opponents of Algeria's military-hacked government that they will be of economic reforms and market-opening measures in 1986 and has been negotiating a new cooperation accord with the European Union, its biggest trading partner, for the past year to fix quotas for access to the European market of Tunisian products, notably olive oil. refitted for military use. French media said on (Continued on page 7)

